クレイモア

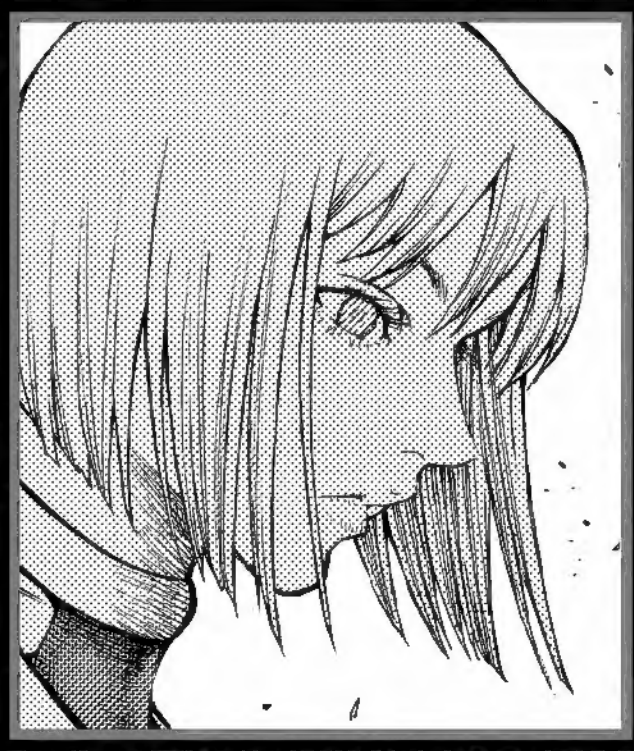
Claymore

8

SHONENJUMP ADVANCED

Story & Art by

NORIHIRO YAGI



Norihiro Yagi won the 32nd Akatsuka Award for his debut work, *UNDEADMAN*, which appeared in *Monthly Shonen Jump* magazine and produced two sequels. His first serialized manga was his comedy *Angel Densetsu* (Angel Legend), which appeared in *Monthly Shonen Jump* from 1992 to 2000. His epic saga, *Claymore*, has been running in the magazine since 2001.

In his spare time, Yagi enjoys things like the Japanese comedic duo Downtown, martial arts, games, driving, and hard rock music, but he doesn't consider these actual hobbies.

CLAYMORE VOL. 8
SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED Manga Edition

STORY AND ART BY
NORIHIRO YAGI

English Adaptation & Translation/Arashi Productions
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Design/Izumi Evers
Editor/Jonathan Tarbox

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RATED T+ FOR OLDER TEEN

PARENTAL ADVISORY
CLAYMORE is rated T+ for Older Teen and is recommended for ages 16 and up. This volume contains realistic violence.

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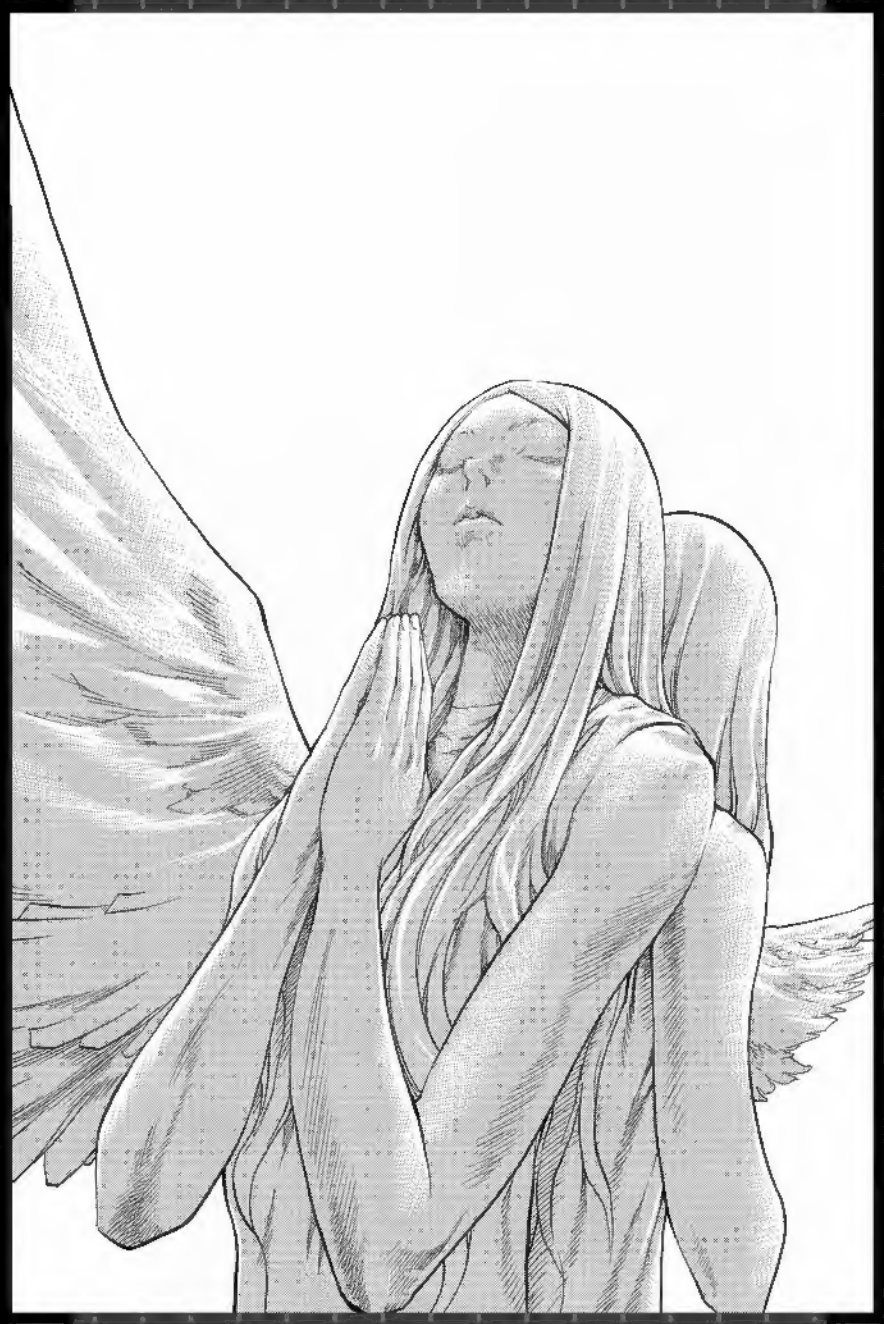
クレイモア Claymore™



Vol. 8
The Witch's Maw

Story and Art by Norihiro Yagi

The Story Thus Far

Creatures known as Yoma have long preyed on humans, who were once powerless against their predators. But now mankind has developed female warriors who are half human and half monster, with silver eyes that can see the monsters' true form. These warriors came to be called Claymores after the immense broadswords that they carried.

After losing her right arm to Ophelia, Clare is rescued by the former number 2, Ilena. Can Clare defeat Ophelia using the Quick-Sword technique?

Claymore クレイモア

Vol. 8

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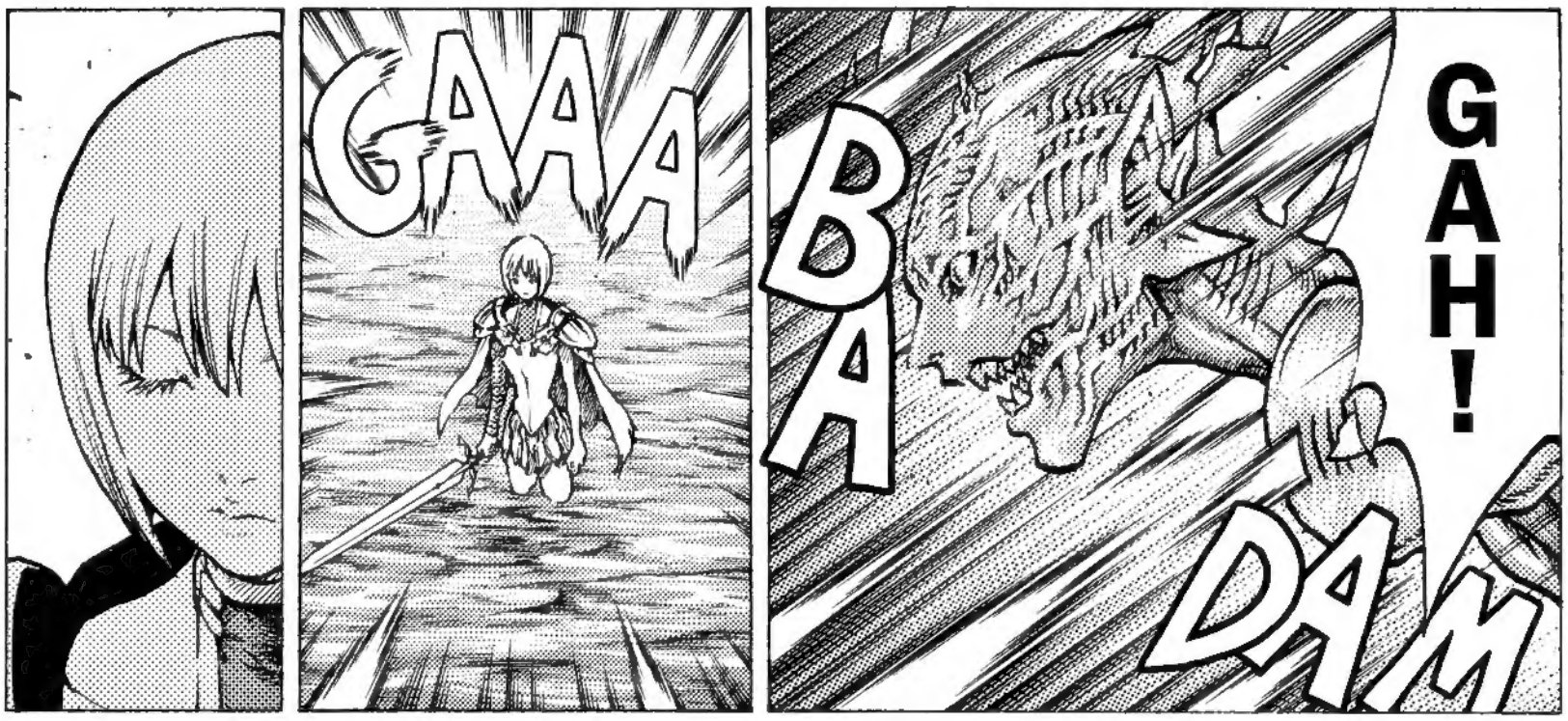
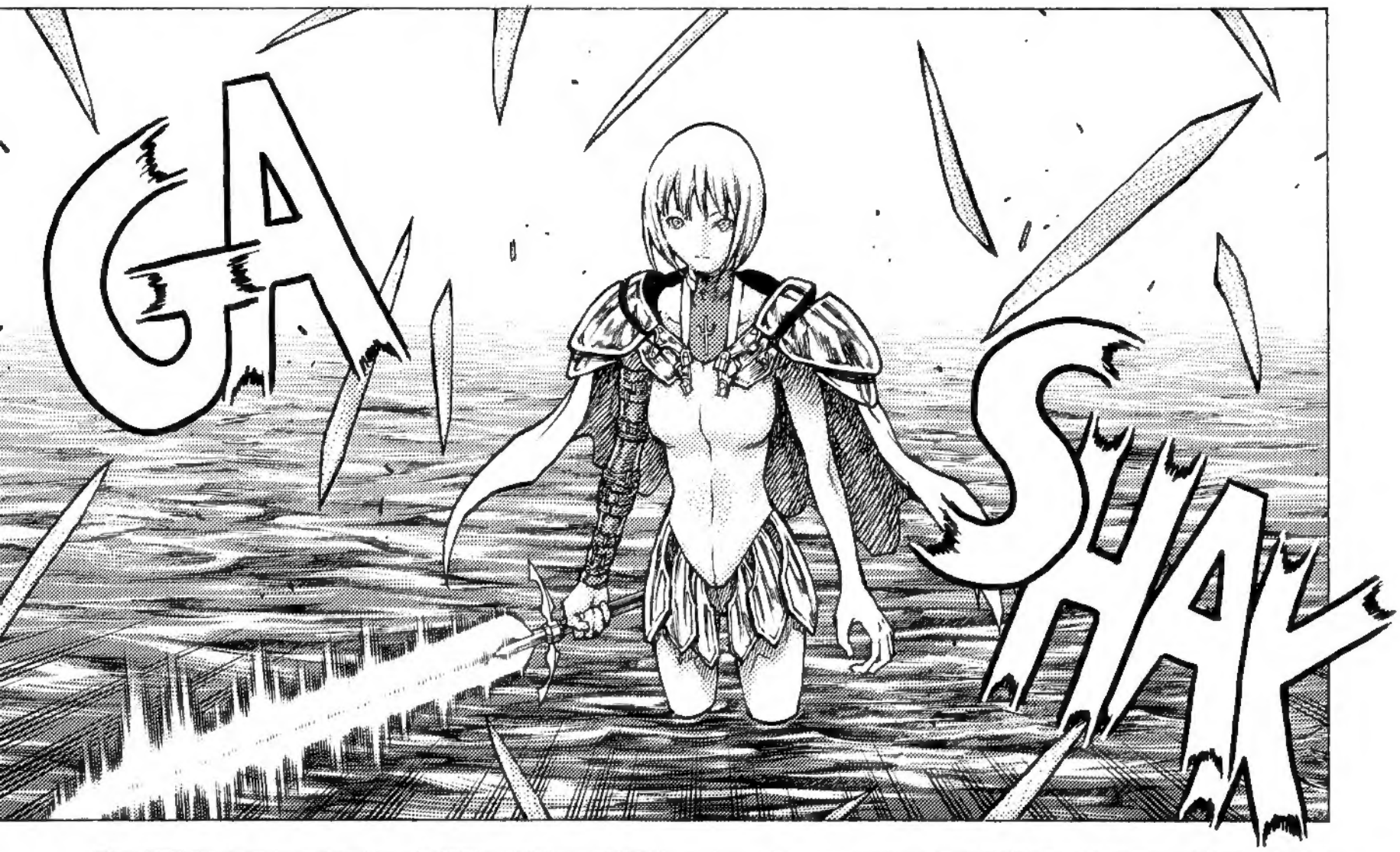
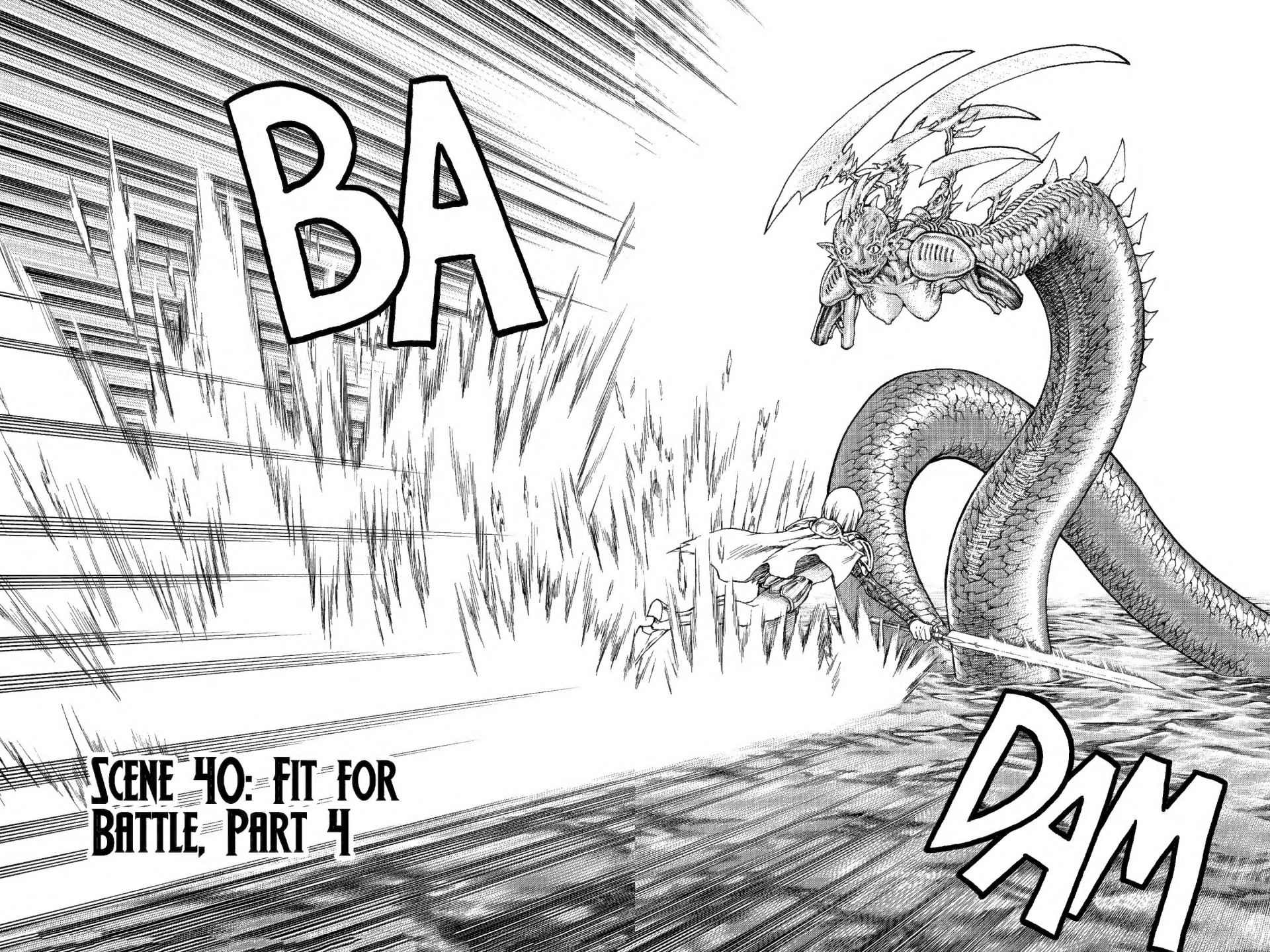
Scene 40: Fit for Battle, Part 4







Scene 40: Fit for Battle, Part 4

TCH!

GAAAA

DOBA

AAAT

GAK

AGH
...

DOBA BA BA BA

CHING

CHA CHACHA

VOOM

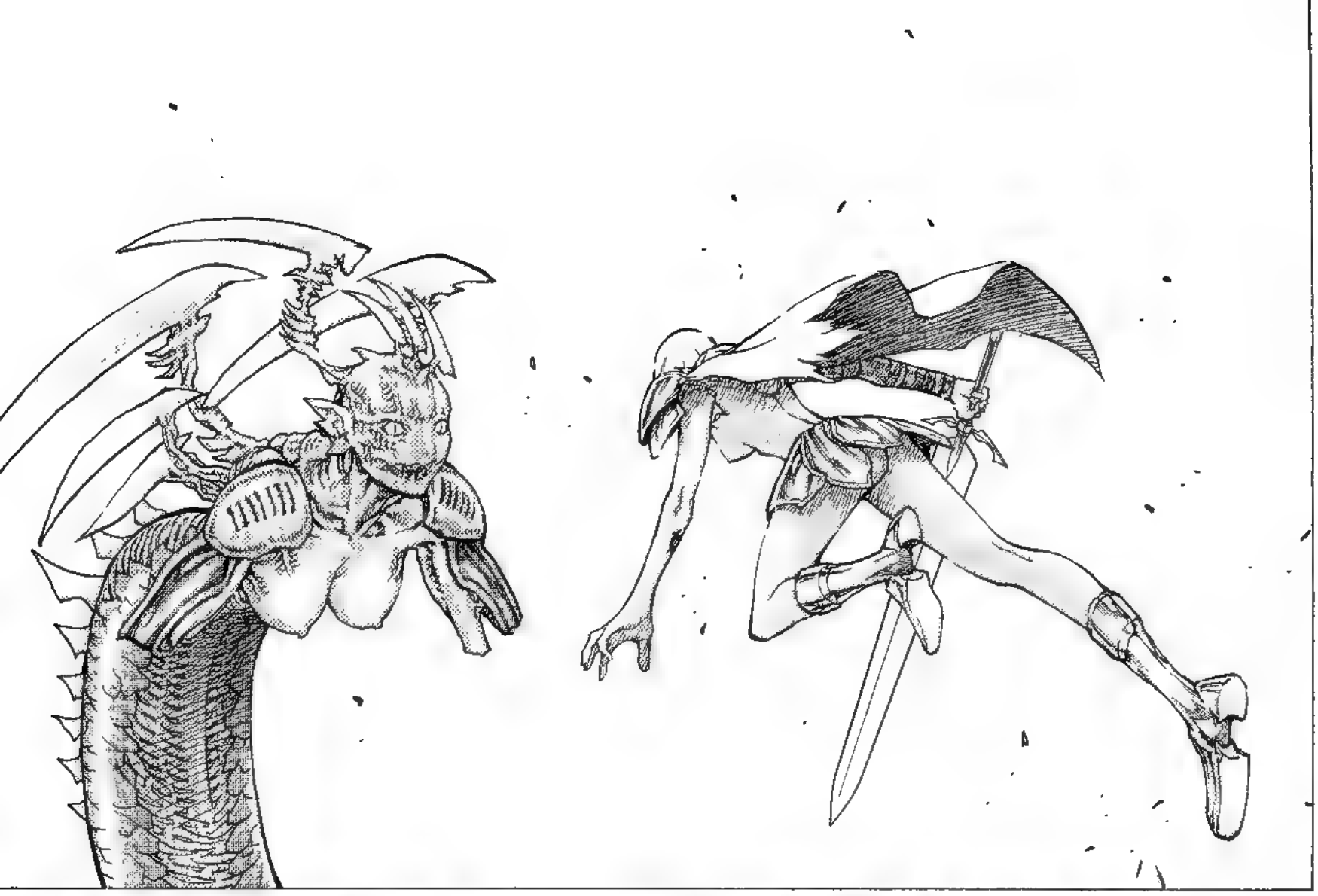
HYAAH!

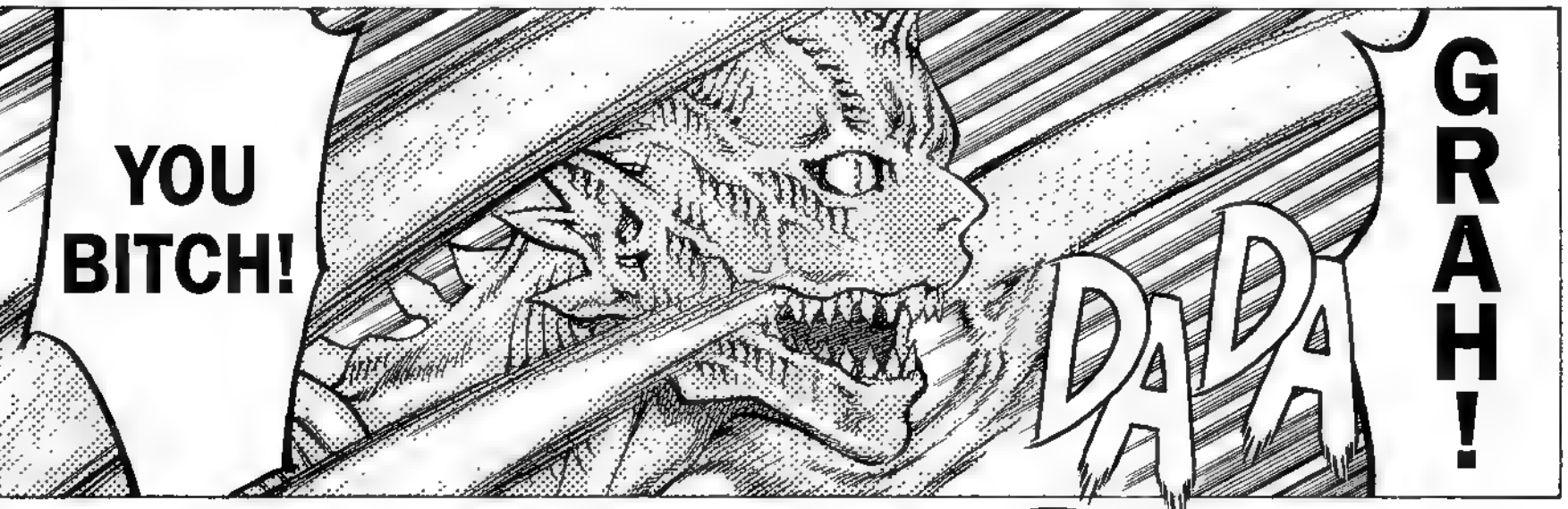
FW OO SH

DOGAAAAA

TMP

!




YOU BITCH!
DADA
GRAH!

!!!

GASHA GAGAGA

GA

SHUK

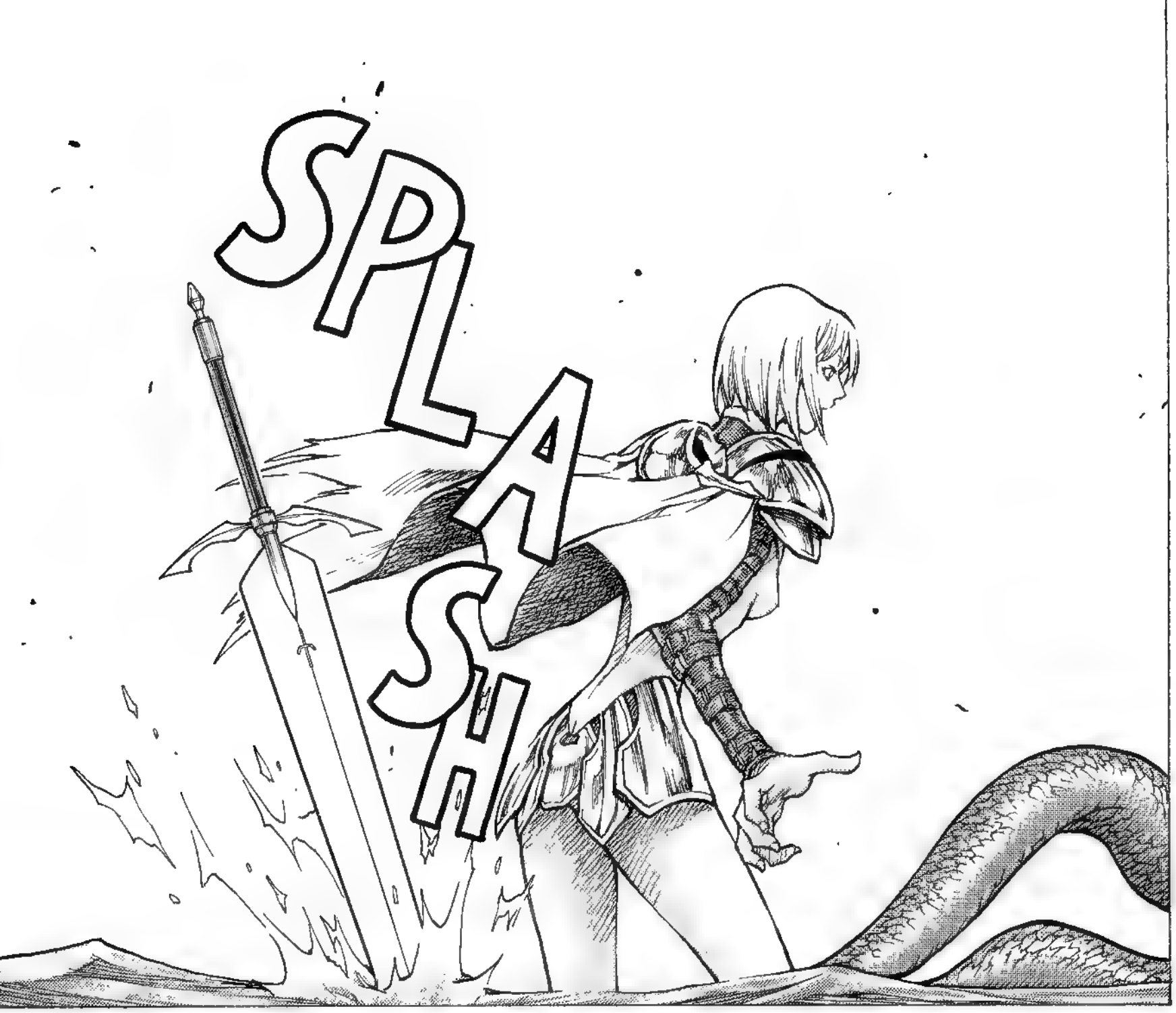
NO ...

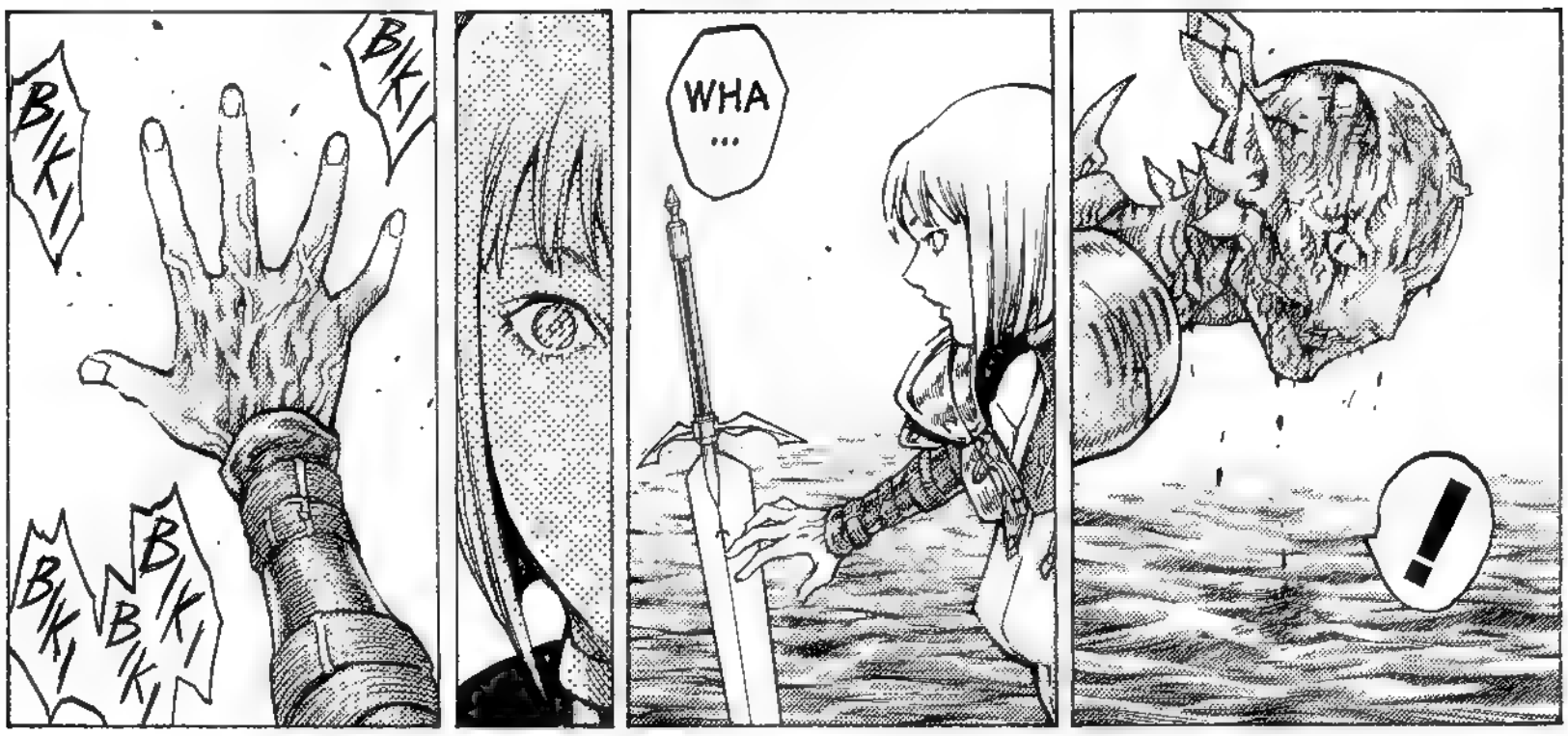
YOU ...

SPLASH

GAH ...

FWOSH


SPLASH


BIKI
BIKI
BIKI
BIKI
BIKI
WHA
...
!

DID I MISTAKE MY LIMITS?

NO... I'M STILL NOT USED TO USING ILENA'S ARM.

BIKI

BIKI

BIKI

UGH ...

BASHAA

YOU BOR-ROWED THAT.

AH, THAT'S IT...

I THOUGHT I'D SEEN IT SOMEWHERE BEFORE.

DOBAAA

READ THIS WAY

SO THAT'S HOW YOU GOT SO STRONG IN SUCH A SHORT TIME.

IT'S THE RIGHT ARM ...

...OF THAT NASTY LITTLE WOMAN.

GRIP

BIKI

BIKI

GRR ...

IT'S TOO MUCH FOR YOU.

THAT FOREIGN ARM IS THROWING YOUR WHOLE BODY OFF.

YOU'RE RE-LEASING YOUR POWER INTO JUST ONE ARM.

THAT MEANS YOU HAVE TO CONTROL THAT ARM WITHOUT LETTING THE SWORD SLIP FROM YOUR GRASP, RIGHT?

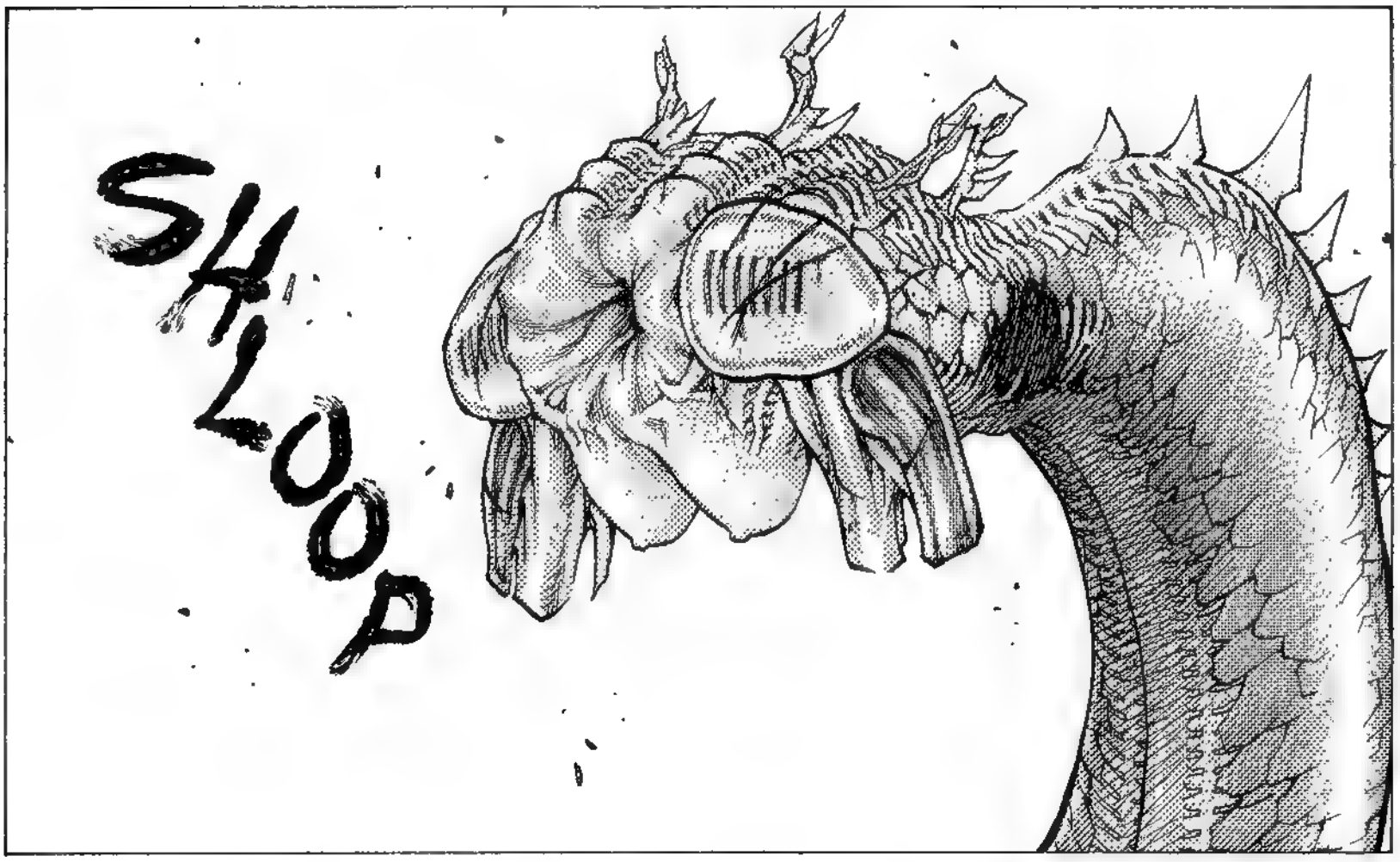
HUFF

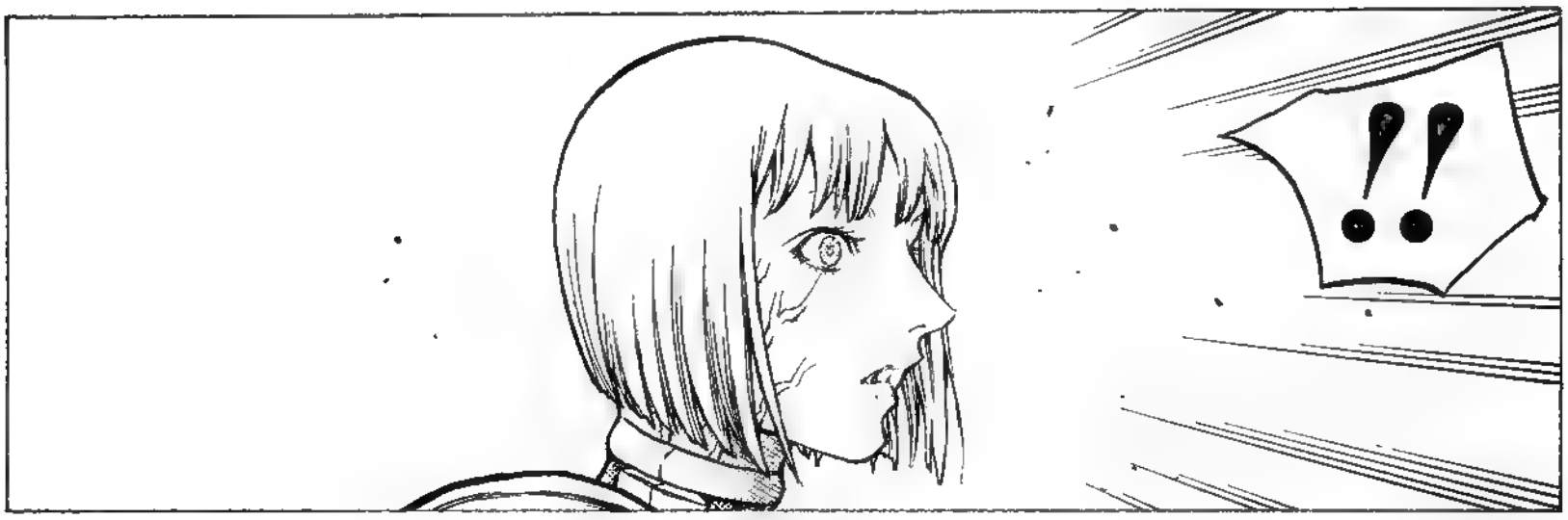
HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

ZAAA


SHLOOP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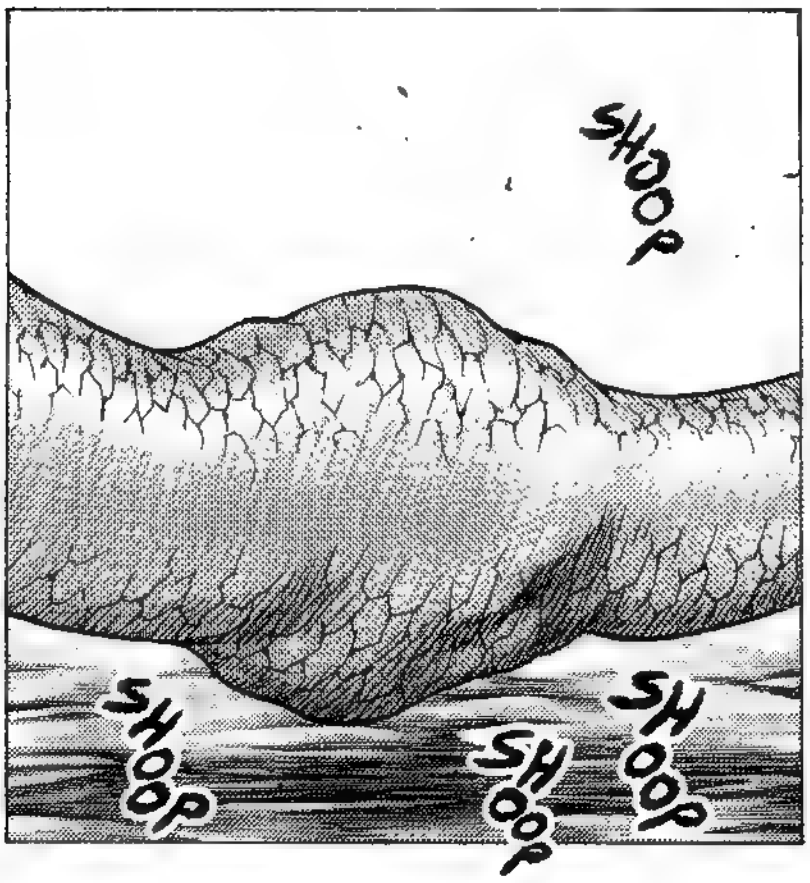
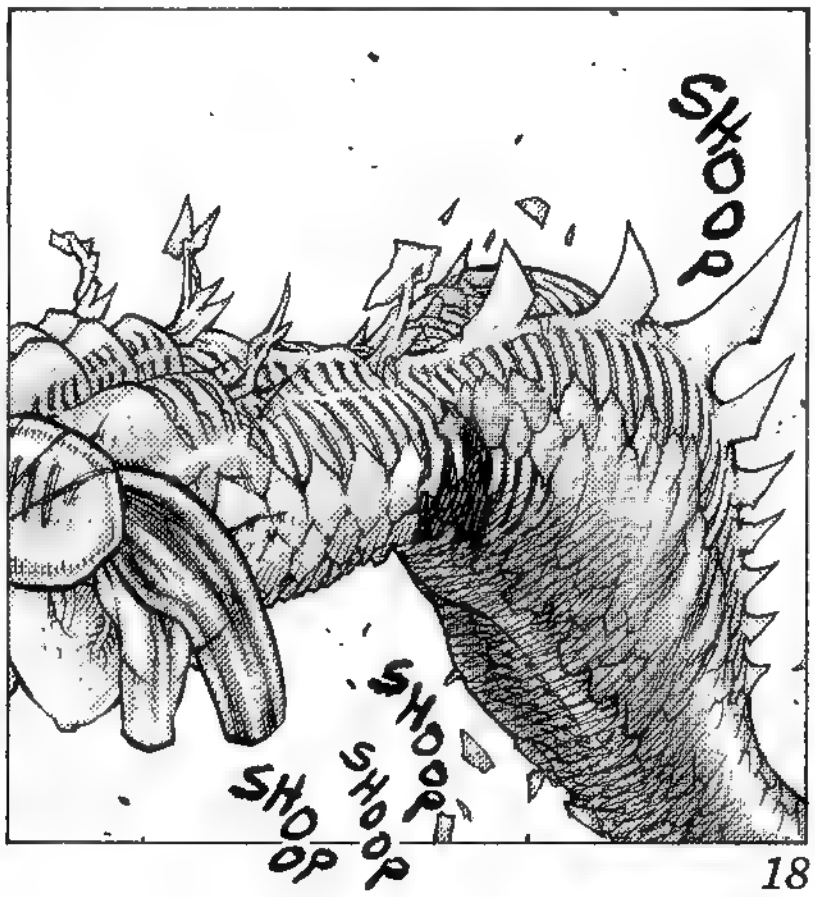
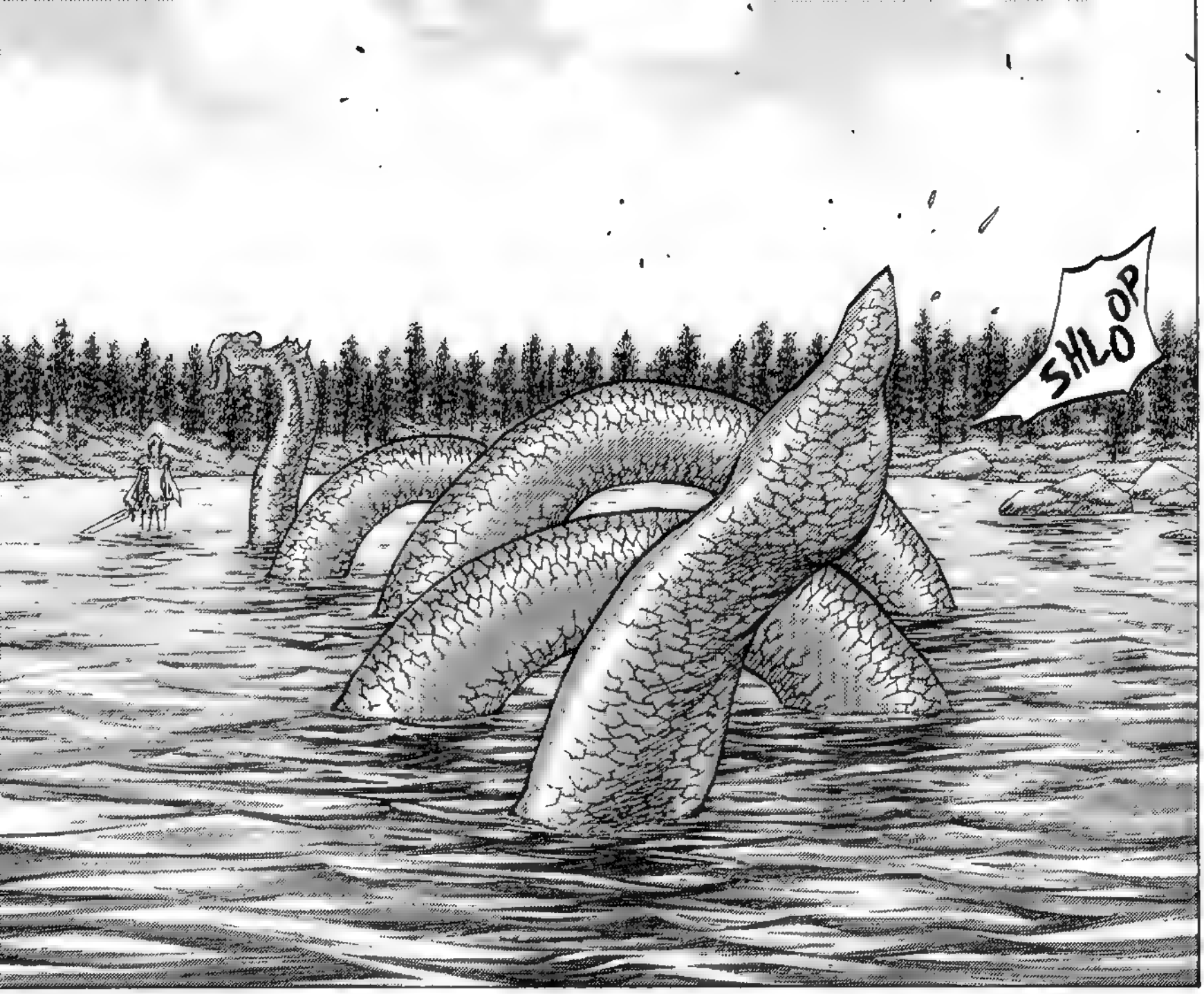

SHOOP
SHOOP
SHOOP
SHOOP
SHOOP


SHOOP
SHOOP
SHOOP
SHOOP
SHOOP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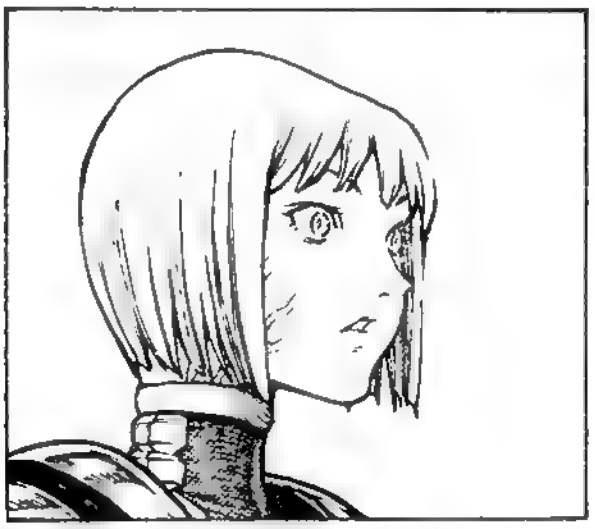
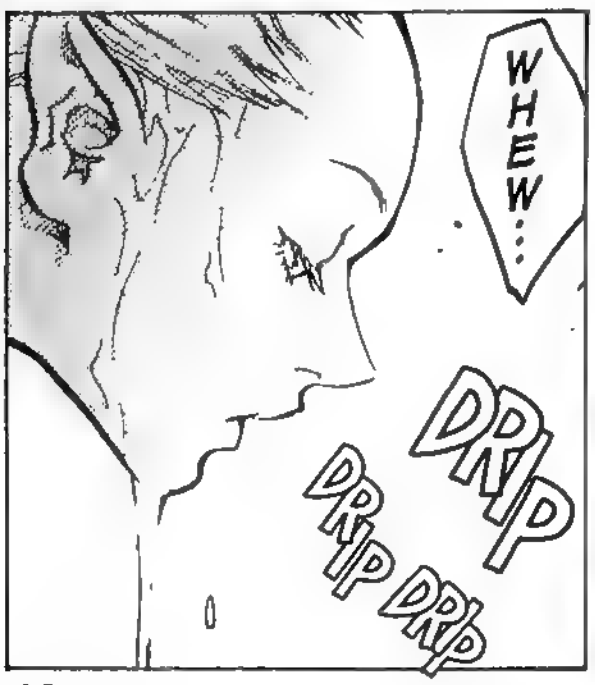
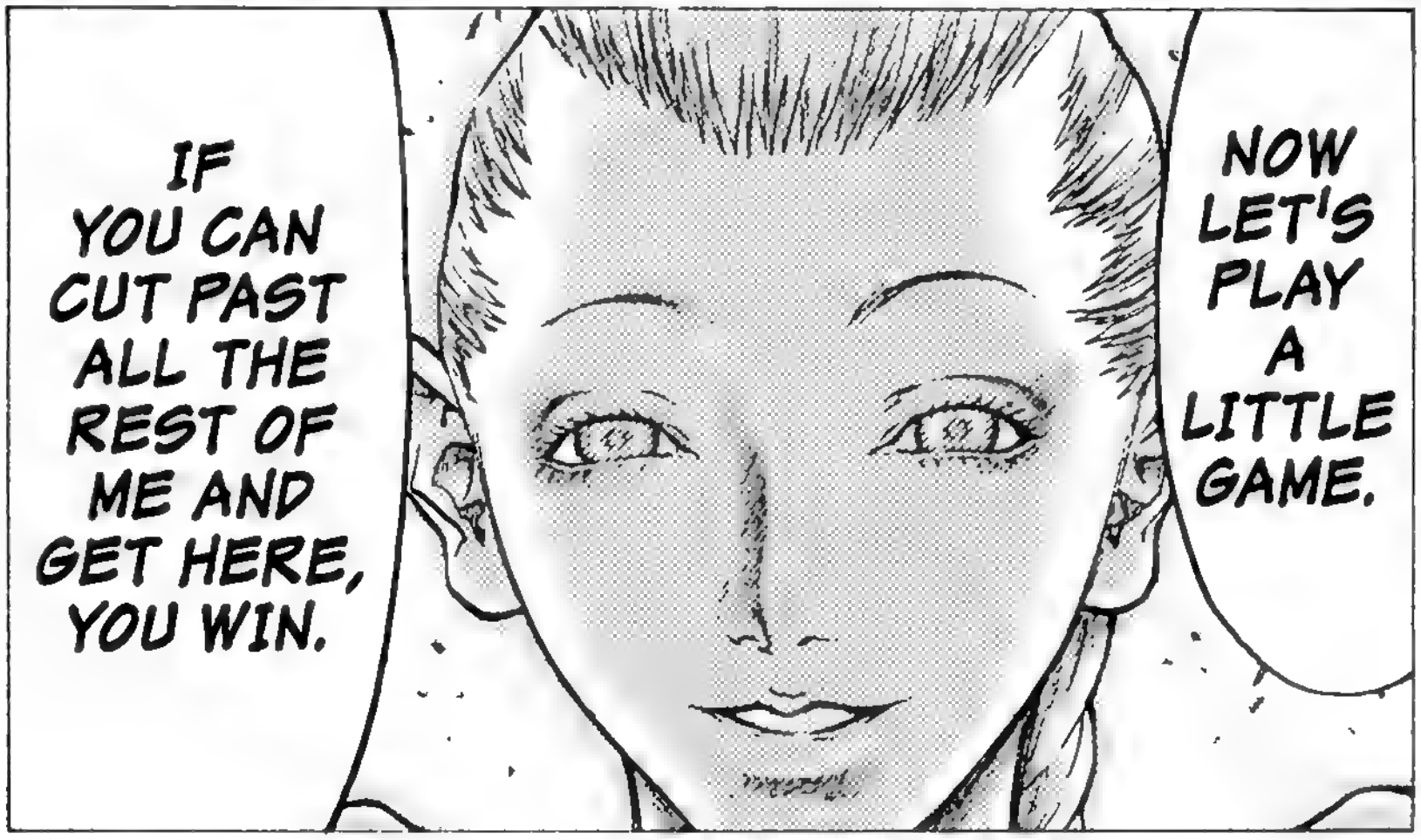



WHEW...
DRIP
DRIP DRIP

SHLOOP
SHLOOP
SHLOOP
SHLOOP
SHLOOP

SHLOOP
SHLOOP
SHLOOP

IN OTHER WORDS, THIS IS MY WEAK POINT.
DRIP
DRIP
I'VE CONCEN-TRATED THE PART OF ME THAT'S STILL HUMAN IN MY TAIL.


IF YOU CAN CUT PAST ALL THE REST OF ME AND GET HERE, YOU WIN.
NOW LET'S PLAY A LITTLE GAME.

INTER-ESTING GAME, DON'T YOU THINK?

IT MEANS YOU'RE NOT FIT TO BATTLE THAT ONE-HORNED MONSTER.

BUT IF HALFWAY THROUGH YOU GO PAST YOUR LIMITS AND AWAKEN, THEN *I WIN.*

IF I LOSE ...

I'LL SUBMIT OBEDI-ENTLY TO YOUR WILL.

HUFF

BIKI BIKI BIKI

HUFF

HUFF

BIKI

BIKI

BIKI

BA

DA

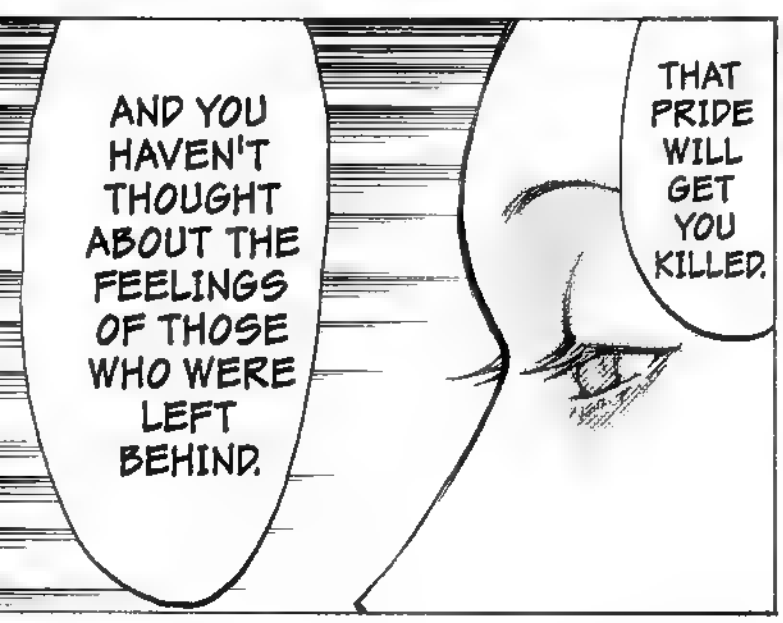
DO

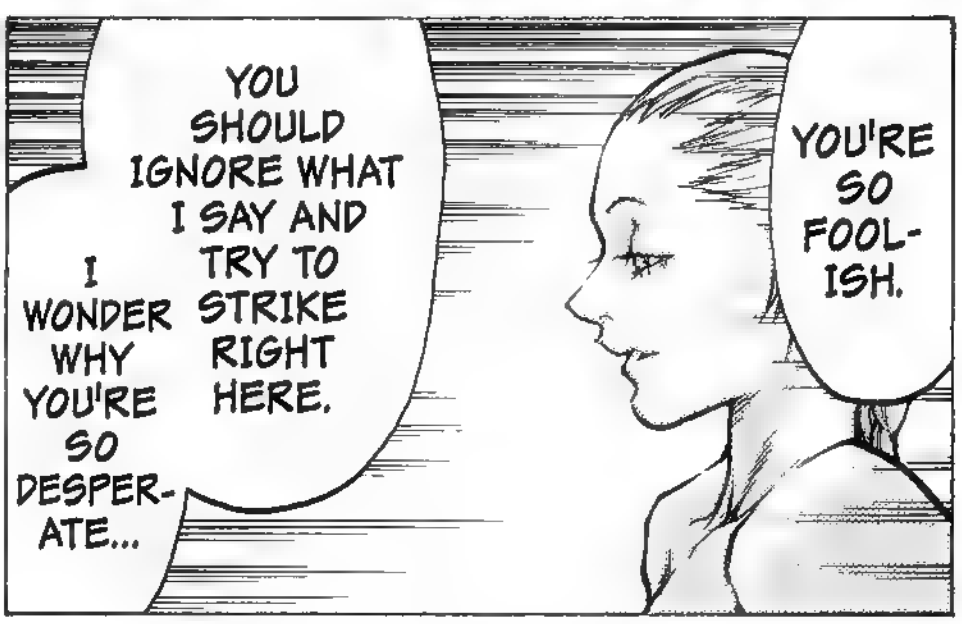
GA

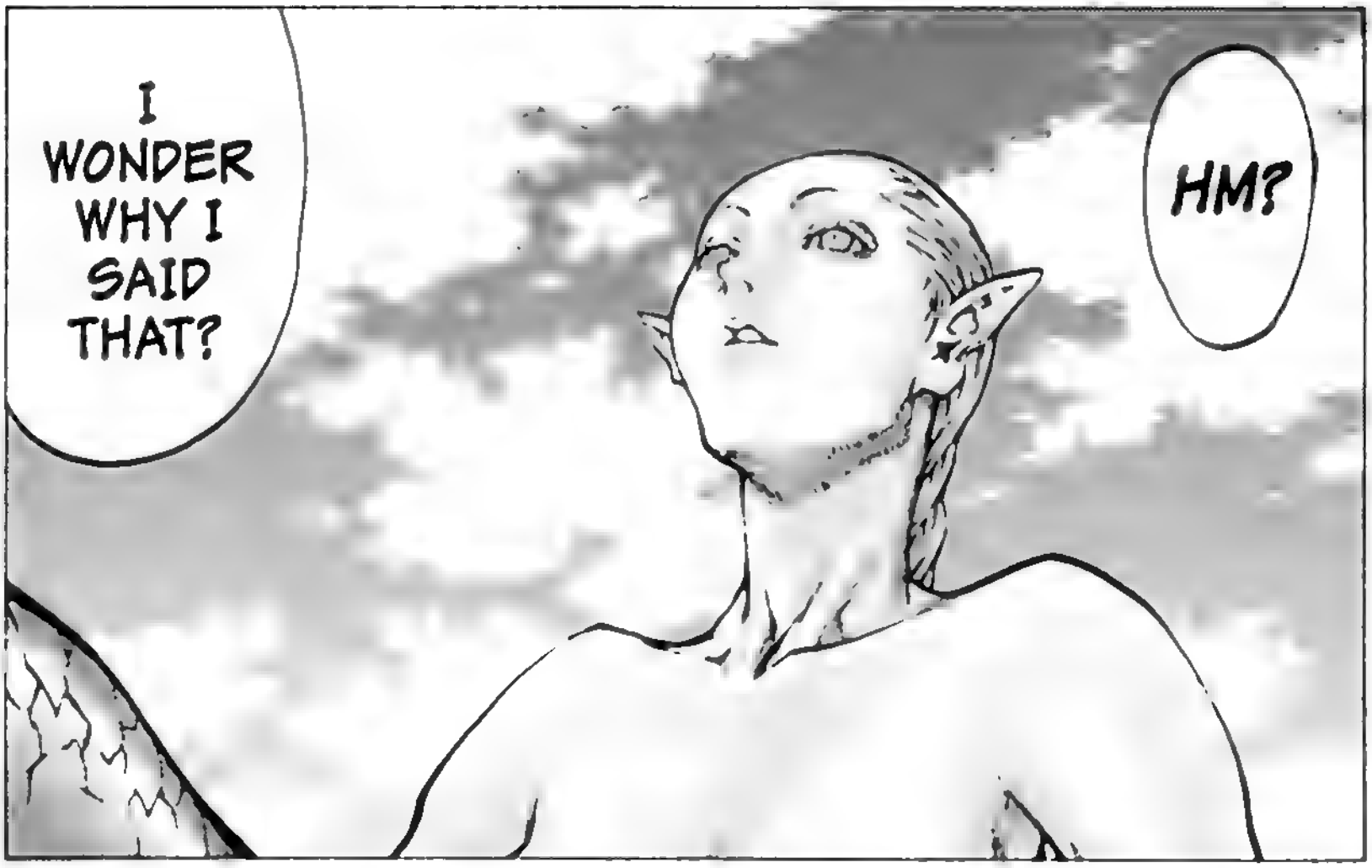
AA

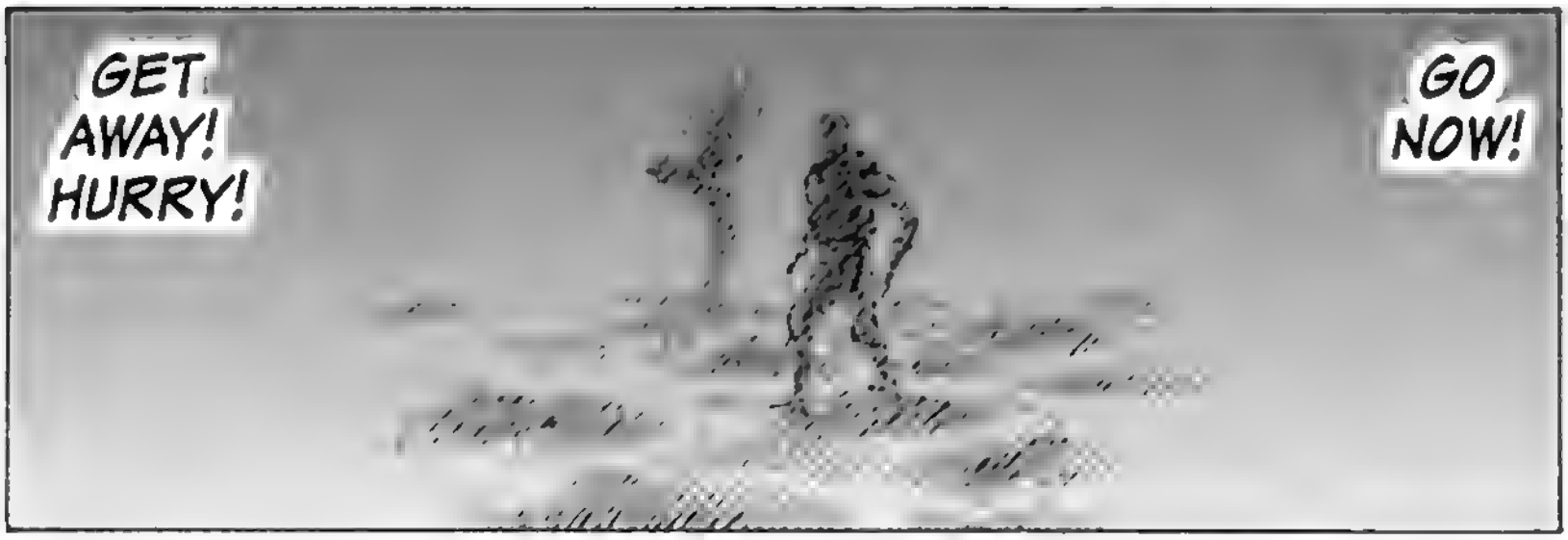
DO GA GA GA

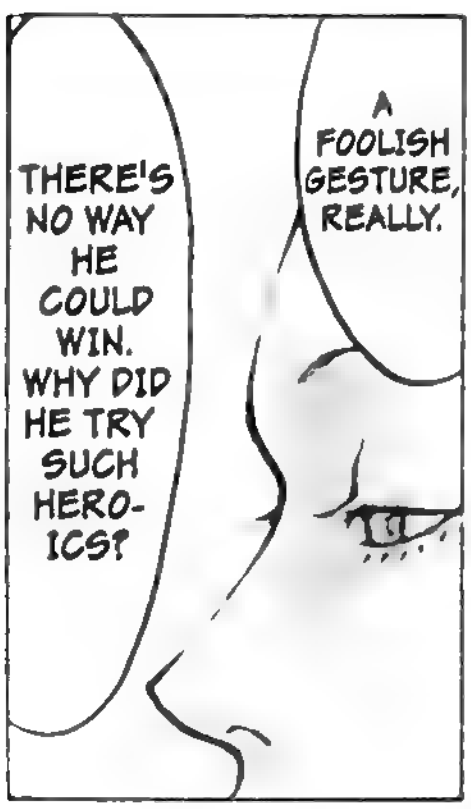
DO GA GA GA

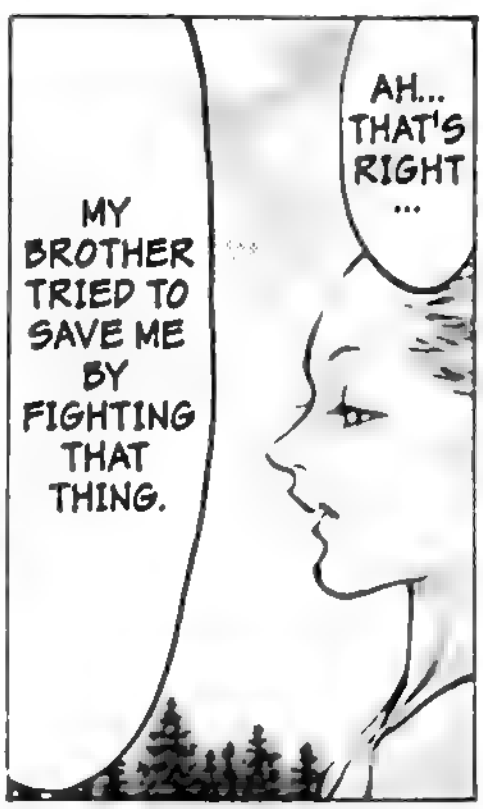

AND YOU HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT THE FEELINGS OF THOSE WHO WERE LEFT BEHIND.
THAT PRIDE WILL GET YOU KILLED.


I WONDER WHY YOU'RE SO DESPER-ATE...
YOU SHOULD IGNORE WHAT I SAY AND TRY TO STRIKE RIGHT HERE.
YOU'RE SO FOOL-ISH.


I WONDER WHY I SAID THAT?
HM?


GET AWAY! HURRY!
GO NOW!


THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD WIN. WHY DID HE TRY SUCH HERO-ICS?
A FOOLISH GESTURE, REALLY.


MY BROTHER TRIED TO SAVE ME BY FIGHTING THAT THING.
AH... THAT'S RIGHT ...

GET OUT OF HERE WHILE YOU STILL CAN!
I'LL HOLD THIS THING OFF!

DO GA GA GA

GA GA GA GA

GRR ...

UGH!

REALLY...

WHAT WAS THAT FOR?

RGH ...

BIKI

BIKI

UGH ...

HE KNEW HE COULDN'T STAND ALONE AGAINST THAT CREA-TURE.

HE JUST GOT HIM-SELF KILLED.

BIKI

BIKI

BIKI

KA

THUK

AH
...

AAAGH!

READ THIS WAY

FINISHED ALREADY, ARE WE?

JUST AS I EX-PECTED.

AGH ...

GAH!

GUAA

DAMN IT.

MOVE ... YOUR ARM ...

BIKI

BIKI

MOVE...

DAMN IT.

BIKI

BIKI

DAMN IT.

DAMN!

MOVE...

MOVE...

MOVE...

IF YOU GO GET YOUR-SELF KILLED, WHAT ABOUT THE ONES YOU LEAVE BEHIND!?

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DO-ING!?

WH

AM

BIKI

BIKI

BIKI

BIKI

BIKI

DO GA GA GA

YOU CAN DO IT IF YOU TRY.

WHAT'S THIS?

GA GA GA

GA GA GA GA

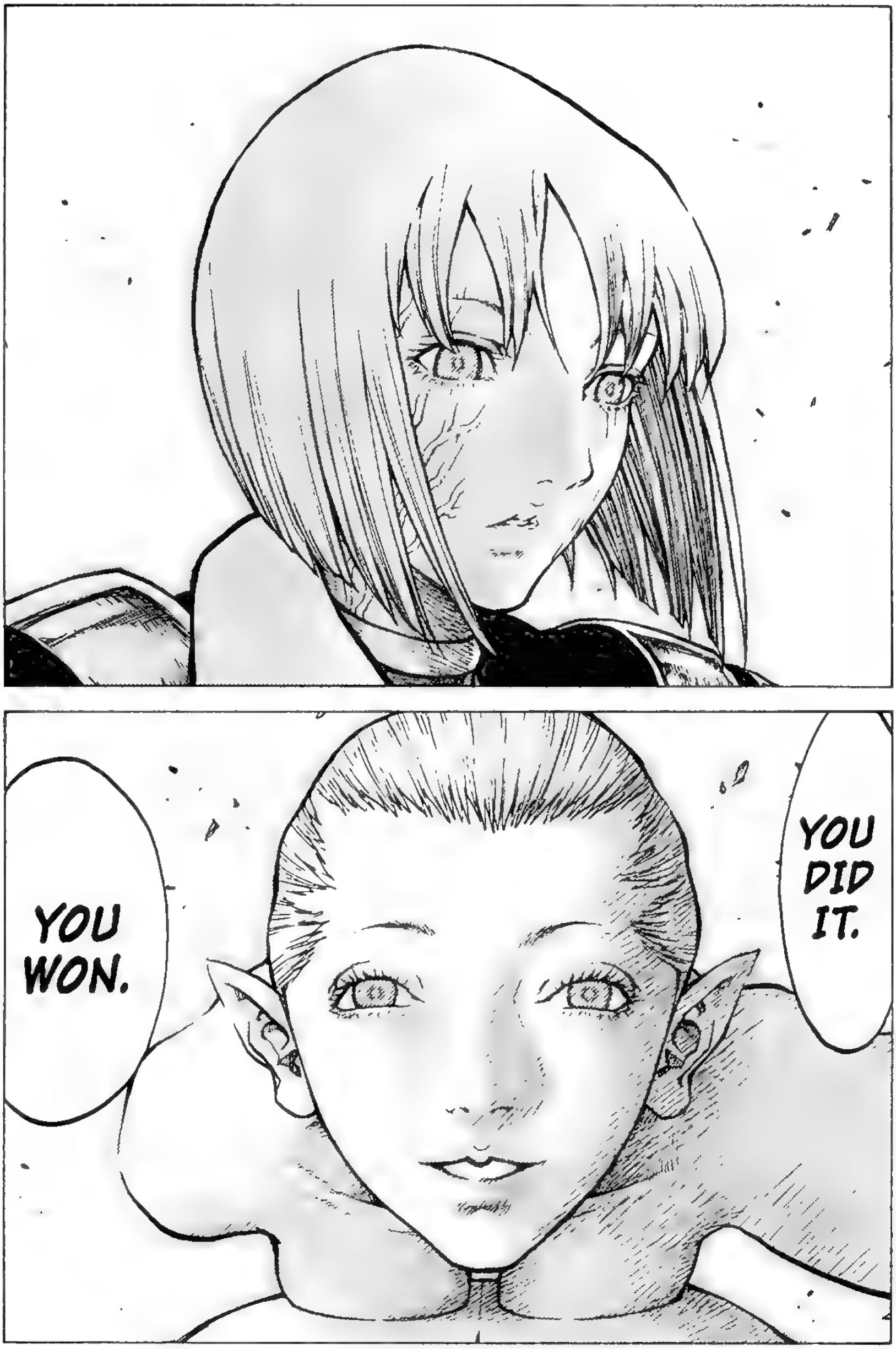
WHY AM I TRYING TO HELP THIS GIRL?

HM?

GA GA GA

GA

!


YOU WON.
YOU DID IT.

THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD HAVE DONE, ANYWAY.

AND AS I PROMISED, I YIELD EVERY-THING TO YOU.

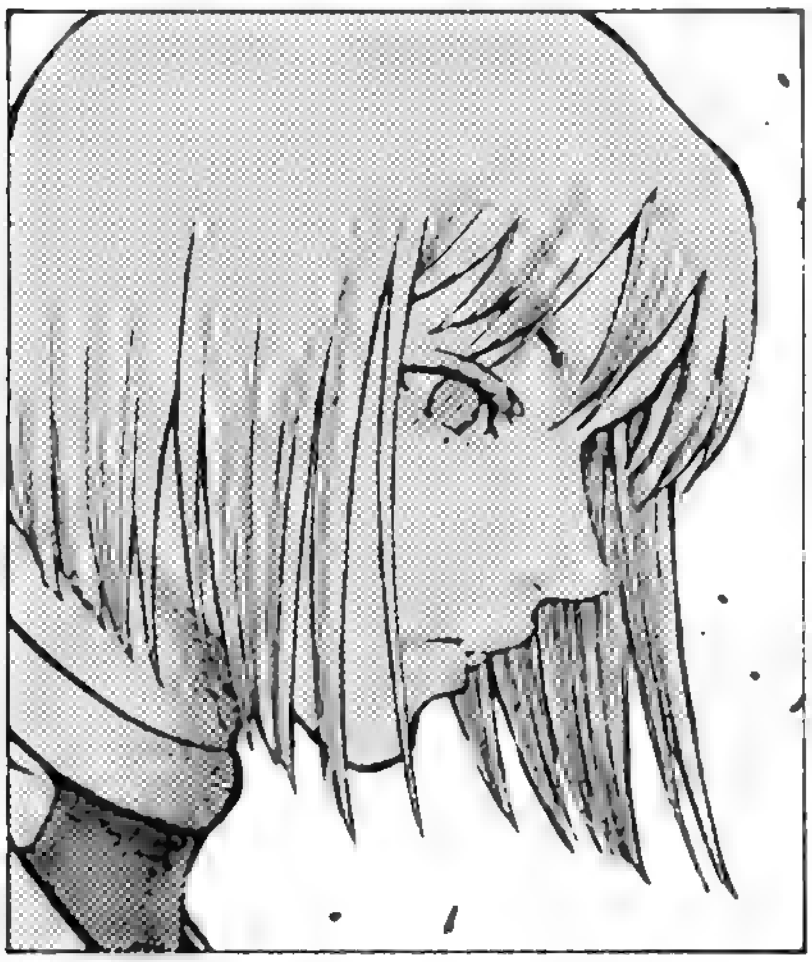
IF YOU DON'T HURRY, I'LL REGEN-ERATE.

HURRY UP AND FINISH ME OFF.

PEOPLE LIKE YOU WHO RISK THEIR LIVES SO SELF-ISHLY— I HATE THEM.

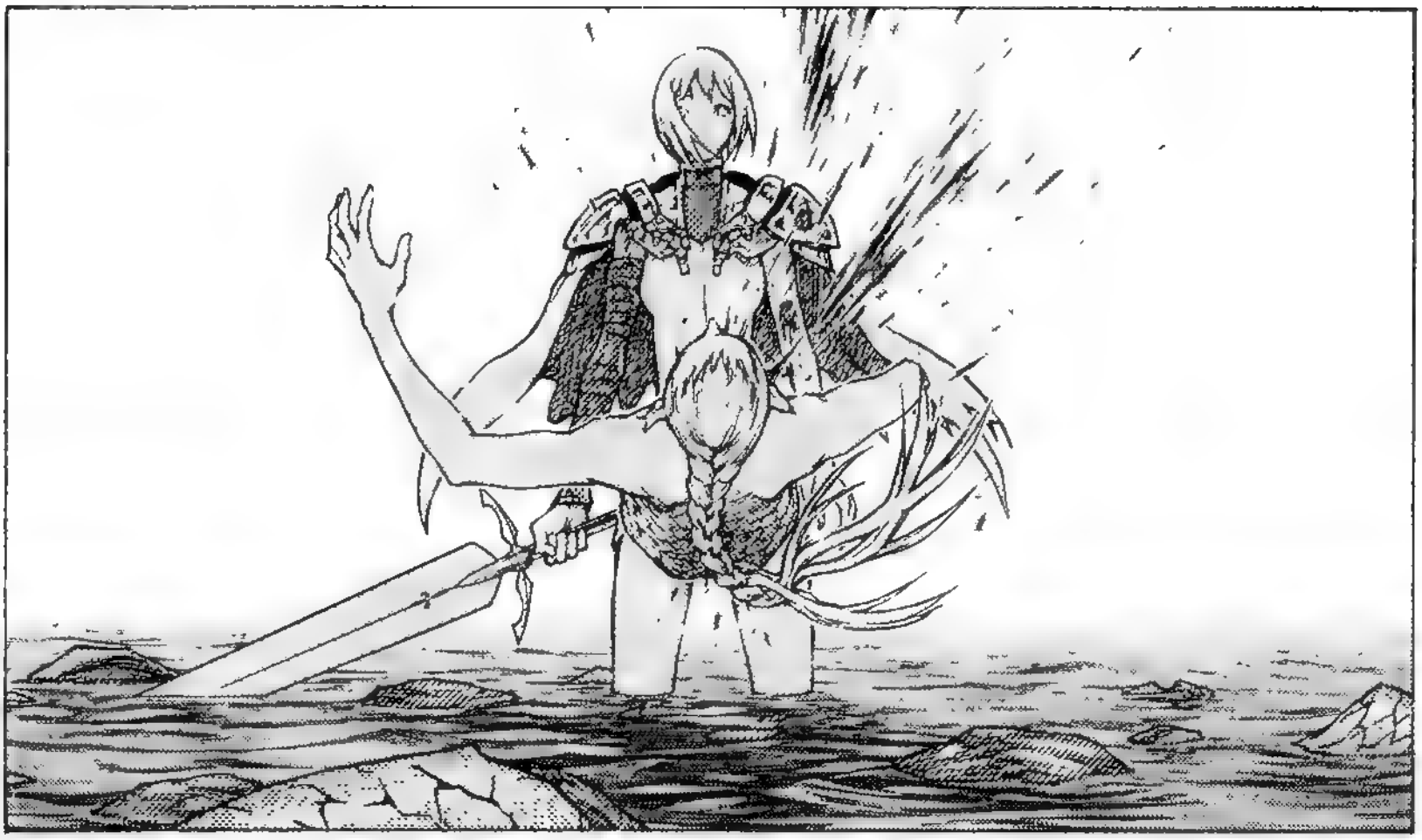
I REALLY HATE THEM.

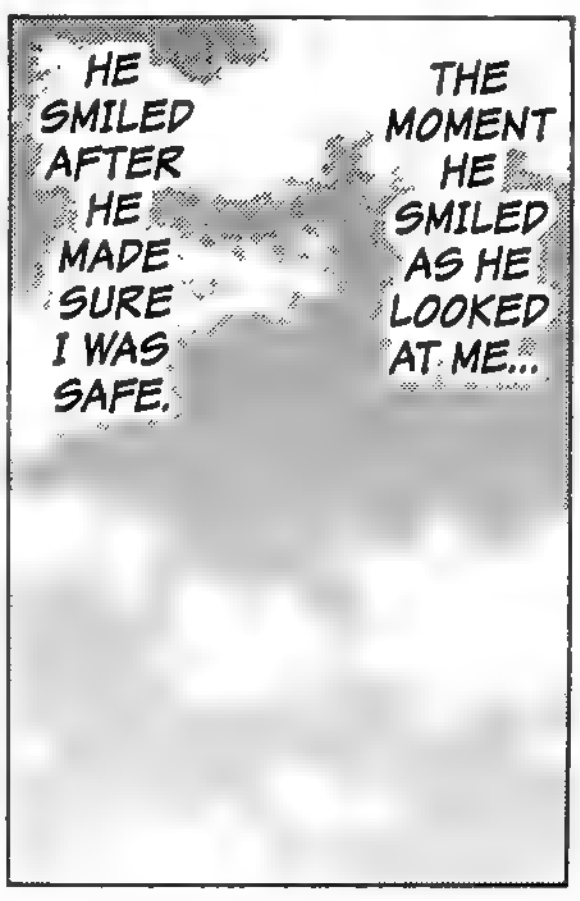
TH
UK



I WON'T FOR-GIVE YOU IF YOU LOSE.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO FIGHT IN MY PLACE ...

READ THIS WAY





I'LL SEE YOU IN THE NEXT WORLD...

WE'LL BE TOGETHER AGAIN...

Scene 41: The Witch's Maw, Part 1

WSSH...

THE FAR EAST LAND OF SUTAFU

YOU'VE LOST CONTACT WITH NUMBER 47?

HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?

THREE MONTHS SINCE MY LAST CON-TACT.

HER LAST MIS-SION?

HUNT-ING AN AWAKENED ONE IN THE VILLAGE OF GONAHL.

A JOB WITH NUM-BER 4.

IS THERE ANY CHANCE SHE WAS KILLED IN ACTION?

I CAN'T SAY FOR SURE.

BUT HER BODY WASN'T FOUND.

READ THIS WAY

IS THERE A CHANCE THAT NUMBER 47 WAS THE ONE WHO TOOK OPHELIA'S LIFE?

NUMBER 4... OPHELIA LEFT THE VILLAGE OF GONAHL AND WENT INTO THE MOUNTAINS. HER CORPSE AS AN AWAKENED ONE WAS DISCOVERED.

WE'D HAVE TO SAY THE POSSI-BILITY IS PRAC-TICALLY ZERO.

IF YOU'RE ASKING WHETHER NUMBER 47 COULD TAKE ON NUMBER 4—AND AN AWAKENED 4 AT THAT—BY HERSELF AND WIN...

...MAY WELL HAVE MADE NUMBER 47 SOME-THING QUITE SPECIAL.

AFTER ALL, THE FLESH OF TERE-SA...

BUT THE RANK NUMBER ALONE IS NOT NECES-SARILY A PERFECT MEASURE OF STRENGTH.

ORDI-NARILY IT WOULD BE IMPOS-SIBLE ...

HOWEVER, WASN'T IT DETERMINED TO BE UNSUCCESS-FUL?

IT WAS AN ATTEMPT TO CONTINUE THE STRENGTH OF A SUPERBLY GIFTED WARRIOR BY TRANS-PLANTING ITS FLESH INTO A NEW RECRUIT.

AT PRESENT, THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT NUMBER 47 HAS SOME UNDETERMINED FACTORS.

LOOKING ONLY AT THE NUMBERS. THAT CON-CLUSION WAS REACHED.

SIR?

ERMITA

IF SHE'S STILL ALIVE, WE HAVE TO SEARCH HER OUT.

EITHER WAY, WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE IT THAT WE DON'T KNOW WHETHER SHE'S ALIVE OR DEAD.

IT'S A TOP PRIORITY. GIVE IT PRECE-DENCE OVER ALL HER OTHERS.

GIVE THIS JOB TO HER.

READ THIS WAY

UNDER-STOOD.

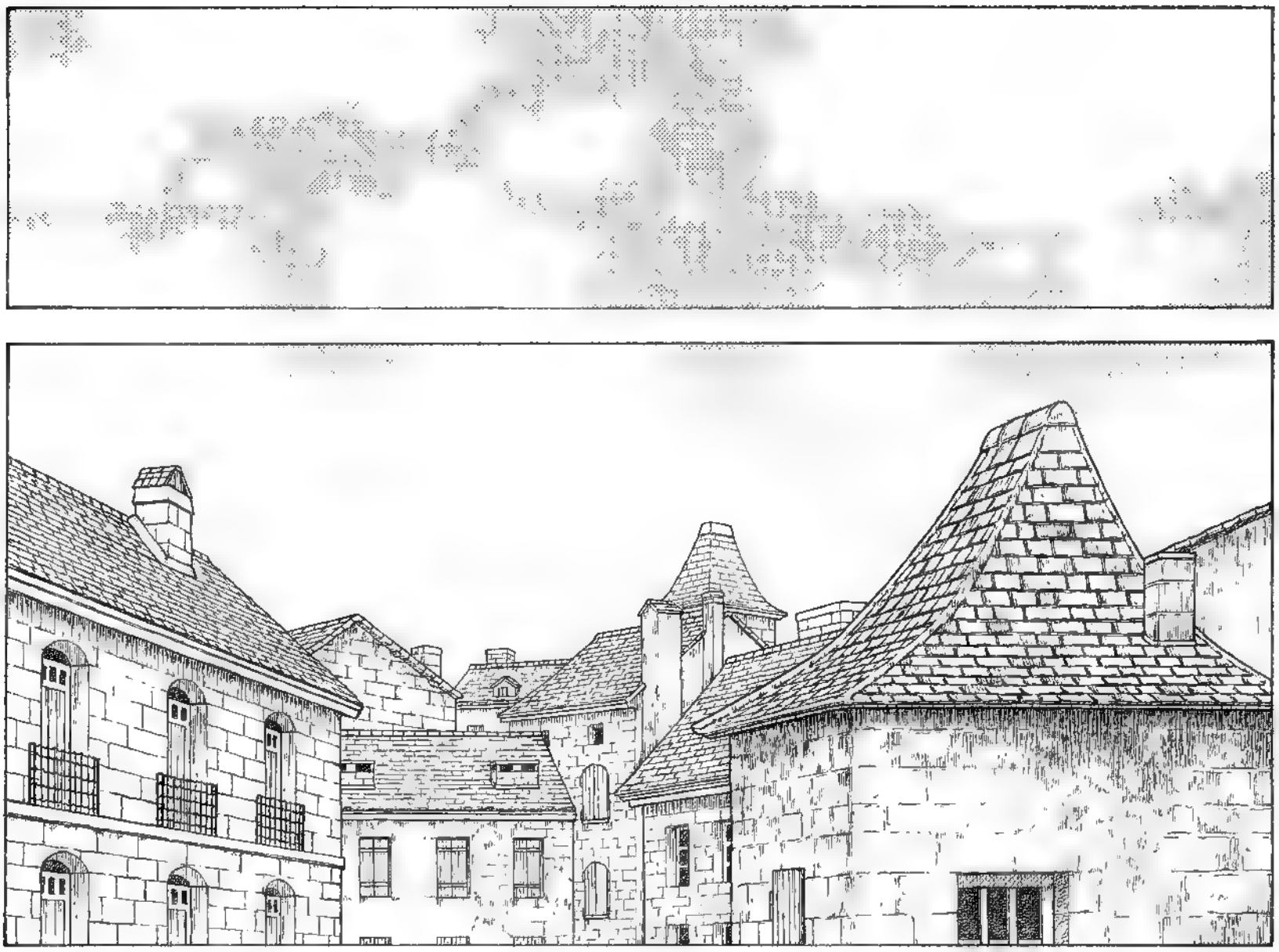
I WONDER WHAT SHE'S UP TO!

THE SITUATION MUST BE DESPER-ATE...

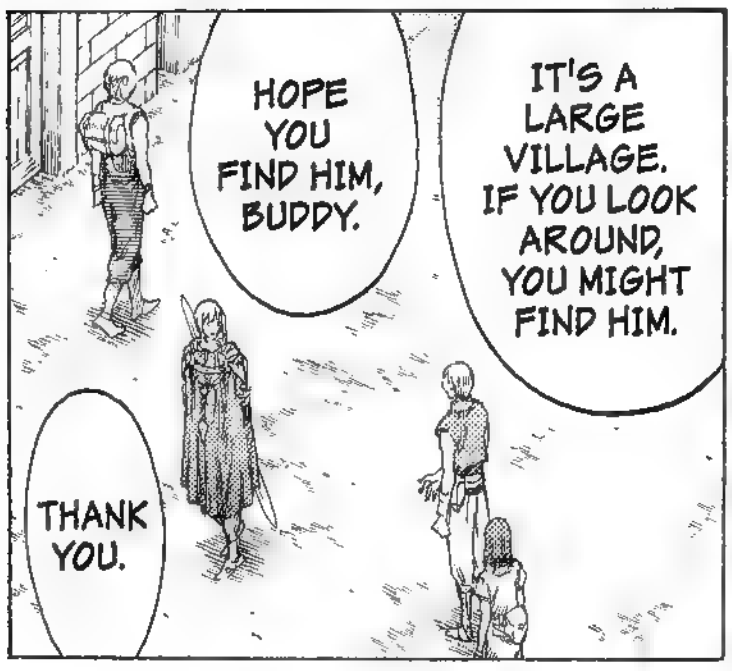
HEH HEH HEH.

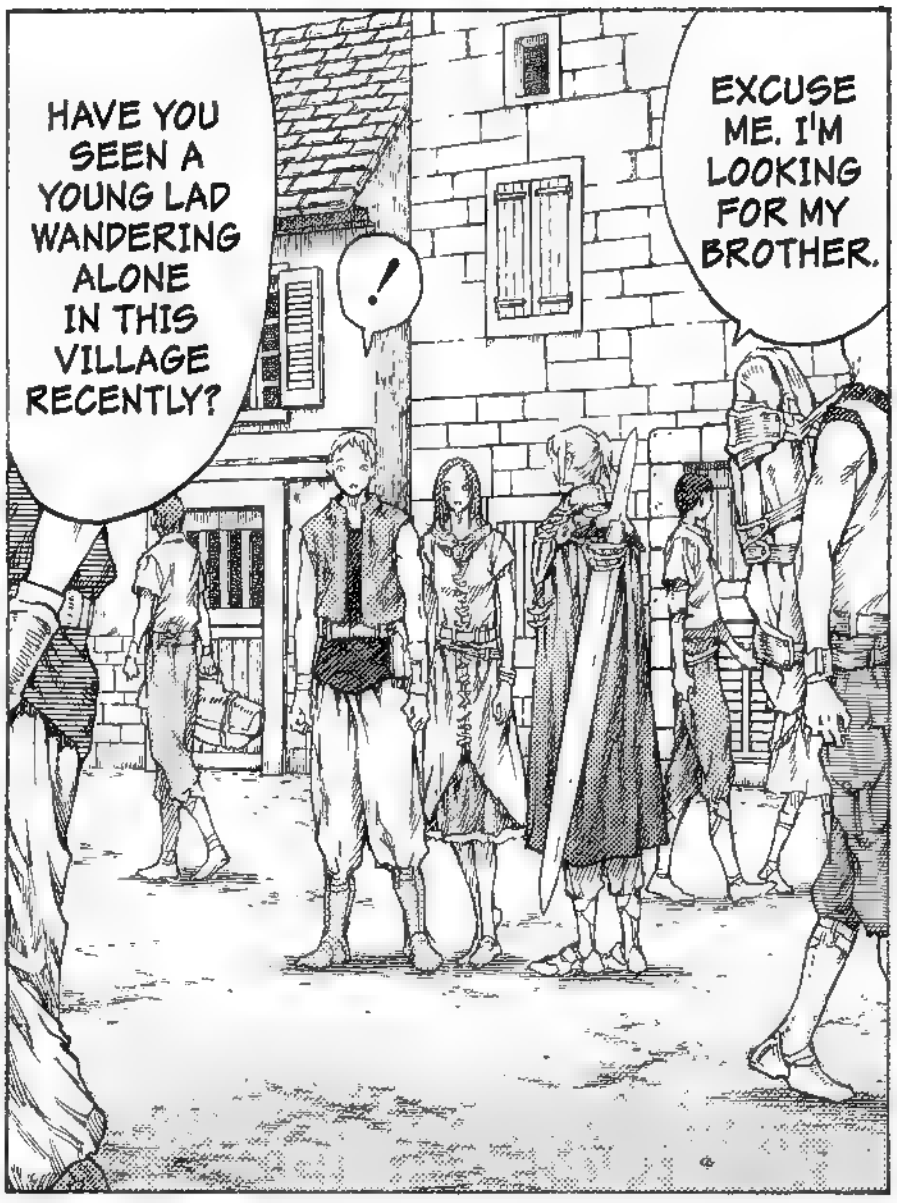
I SEE. SHE'S PER-FECT FOR IT.

IF THEY CALLED ERMITA, THAT MEANS IT'S HER TIME.



A YOUNG FELLAH LIKE THAT WOULDN'T DRAW MUCH NOTICE.
I DON'T RECALL SUCH. BUT LOTS OF FOLKS HAVE BEEN PASSING THROUGH RECENTLY.


HOPE YOU FIND HIM, BUDDY.
IT'S A LARGE VILLAGE. IF YOU LOOK AROUND, YOU MIGHT FIND HIM.
THANK YOU.


HAVE YOU SEEN A YOUNG LAD WANDERING ALONE IN THIS VILLAGE RECENTLY?
!
EXCUSE ME. I'M LOOKING FOR MY BROTHER.

READ THIS WAY

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? HE WAS CARRYING A HUGE SWORD, WASN'T HE?

AND HE HAD A MAN'S VOICE.

YOU CLOD! THAT WAS A GIRL, NOT A BOY.

TMP TMP

GU GU

MAYBE I CAN MAKE IT GO DEEPER.

IF I STRETCH MY VOCAL CHORDS ...

RAKI...

WHERE THE DEVIL ARE YOU?

I'LL BE STAYING A WHILE.

YES, A ROOM, PLEASE.

A ROOM FOR ONE?

WEL-COME, FRIEND!

GACHA

READ THIS WAY

IF YAH WAS TO SEARCH EVERY CORNER OF THE TOWN...

CAN'T SAY FOR SURE. IT'S A MIGHTY BIG TOWN.

RATTLE

PER-HAPS YOU'VE SEEN HIM?

I'M LOOK-ING FOR MY BROTHER WHO GOT LOST DURING OUR TRAVELS.

!

!

BETTER LET YAH KNOW...

OH, AND ONE THING ...

!!

... THERE'S A GROUP O' THEM CLAY-MORES STAYING.

HERE IN THIS TOWN ...

AN AWAK-ENED ONE...

THEY SAY THERE'S A YOMA IN THE MOUN-TAINS NEARBY.

WORD IS HE'S PRETTY TOUGH, SO THERE'S FOUR OF 'EM COME TO GET 'EM.

THANKS FOR THE WARN-ING.

DON'T BE SURPRISED IF YAH BUMP INTO THEM IN THE STREET.

THEY SAY THEM CLAYMORES NEVER LAY A HAND ON REGULAR FOLK, BUT I THOUGHT I OUGHTA TELL YA.

WHEW.

CLUNK

BTAN BTAN

CREAK

READ THIS WAY

I DON'T HAVE MANY LEFT OF THE PILLS I RECEIVED TO SUPPRESS MY YOMA AURA.

THANKS TO THEM, I CAN PASS WITHOUT PEOPLE OR WARRIORS TELLING WHAT I AM.

PLINK

AS I AM NOW, I COULDN'T SPOT A YOMA IF IT WAS STANDING RIGHT NEXT TO ME.

BUT WITH THESE PILLS, WHILE I DON'T PROJECT A YOMA AURA, I ALSO CAN'T SENSE ANY YOMA AURAS NEARBY.

SHAAK

KLAK

MR MR

MR MR

DAMN...

SO WHILE TRYING TO AVOID MY COMRADES, I WALKED RIGHT INTO A VILLAGE FULL OF THEM.

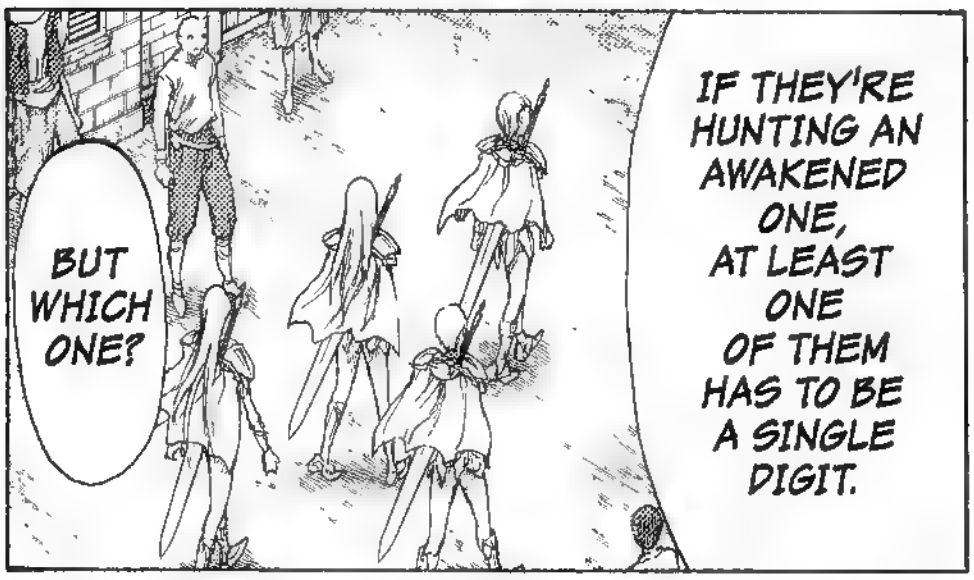
MRMR

MRMR

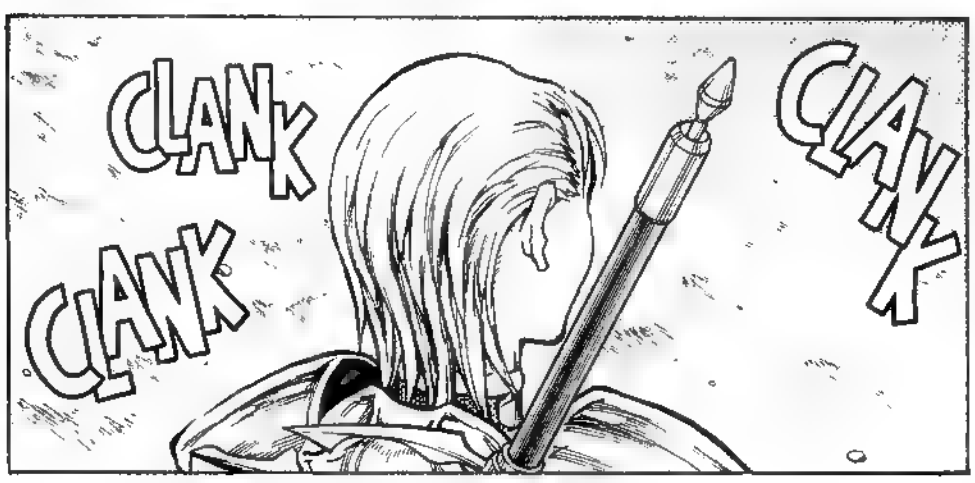
MRMR

!

CLANK CLANK
CLANK


IF THEY'RE HUNTING AN AWAKENED ONE, AT LEAST ONE OF THEM HAS TO BE A SINGLE DIGIT.
BUT WHICH ONE?

AND SPEAK OF THE DEVIL ...


CLANK
CLANK
CLANK

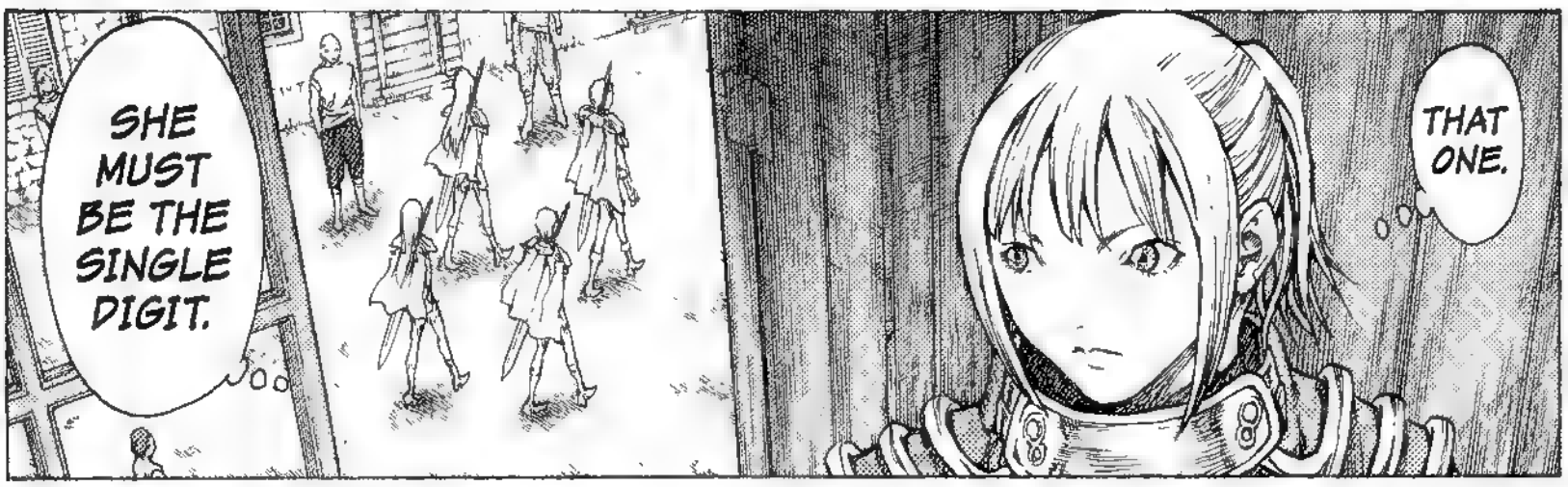
READ THIS WAY

I THOUGHT I FELT SOME-THING.

NO... IT'S NOTH-ING.

?

WHAT IS IT?


SHE MUST BE THE SINGLE DIGIT.
THAT ONE.

EITHER WAY, I'M DISGUISED LIKE THIS...
...AND NONE OF THEM KNOW MY FACE, SO I SHOULD BE SAFE.

IN MY CURRENT STATE, THERE'S NO WAY I CAN ASSESS THEIR STRENGTH.
IS SHE ONE OF THE TOP FIVE?
OR A LOWER NUMBER?

READ THIS WAY

NOW THEN ...

I DON'T WANT TO RUN INTO THEM IF I CAN AVOID IT.

BUT I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.

CLANK

SHHP

I WANTED TO GET STARTED SEARCHING FOR MY BROTHER.

YES.

OH, I SEE.

YER UP MIGHT EARLY.

OH... MORN-IN'.

GAAT

!

HUNT-ING AFTER THAT YOMA.

BY THE WAY... THE CLAYMORE BUNCH I TOLD YAH ABOUT TOOK OFF EARLY THIS MORNIN'.

I'M OFF. I MIGHT NOT BE BACK UNTIL NIGHT-FALL.

ALL RIGHTY. HOPE YAH FIND YER BROTHER.

CREAK

THAT'S NOT TOO FAR.

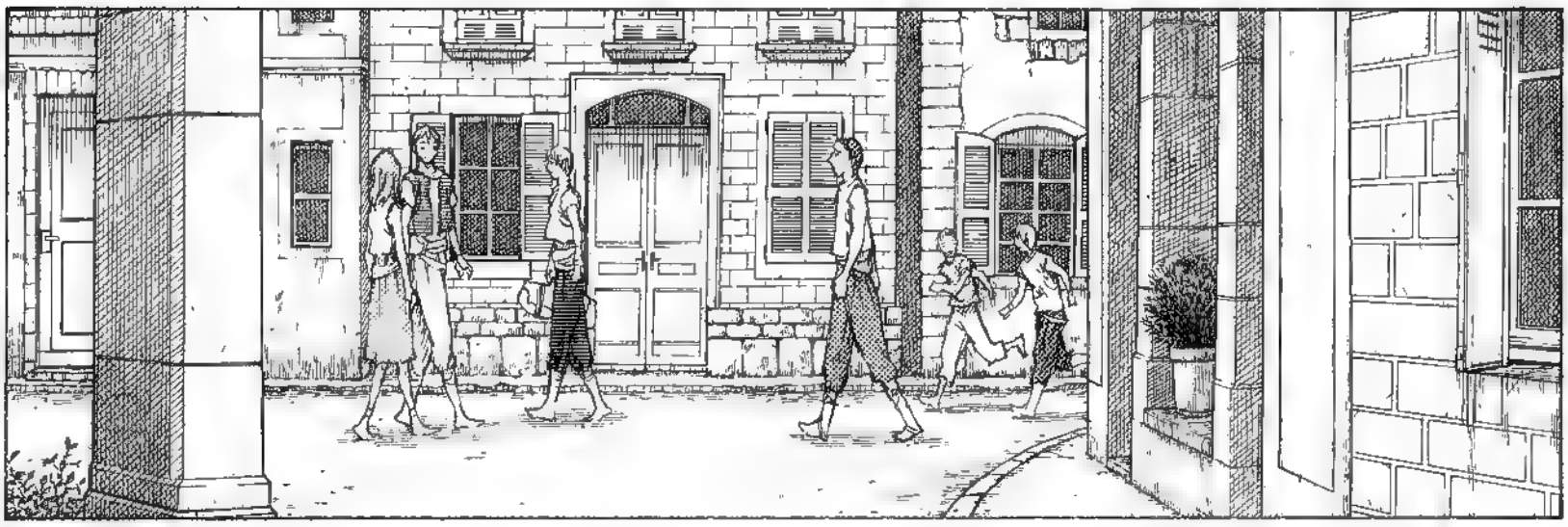
BUT EVEN WITH AN EASY VICTORY, IT'LL TAKE AT LEAST A DAY.

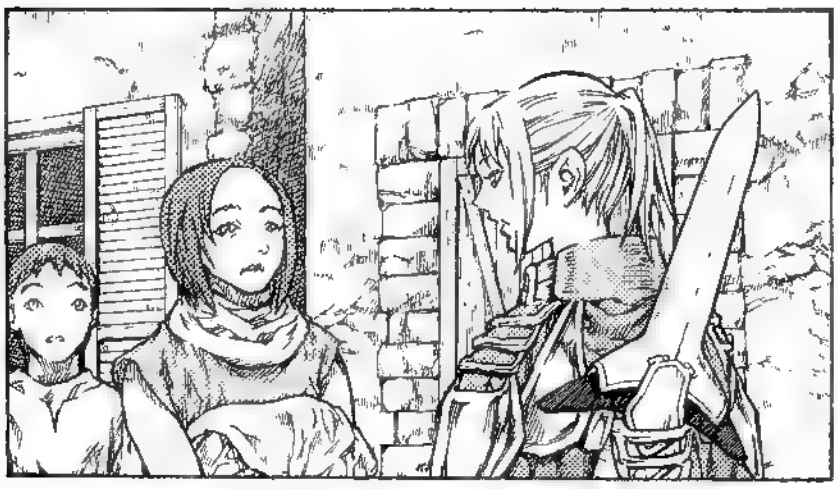
THE ONLY MOUNTAINS NEAR HERE ARE THE ZAKOL.

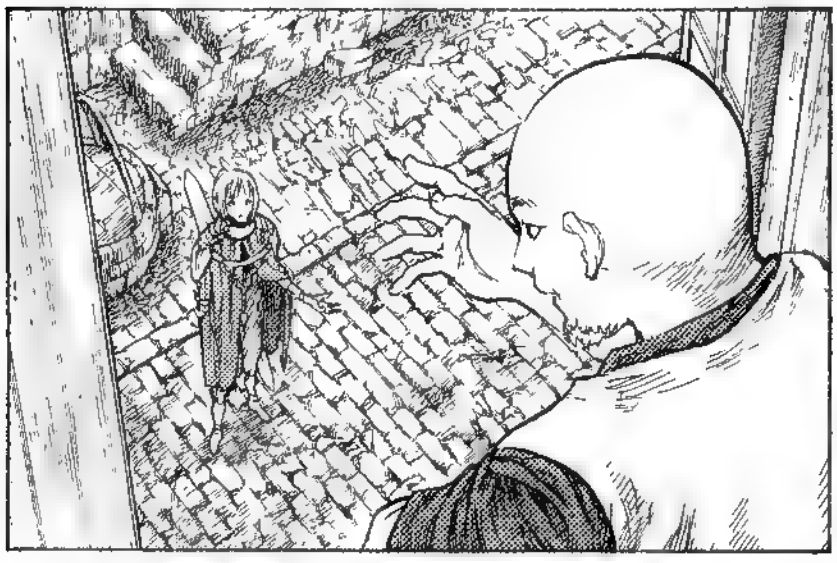
EVEN IF THEY ARE HALF HUMAN, THEY'RE STILL PART YOMA, TOO.

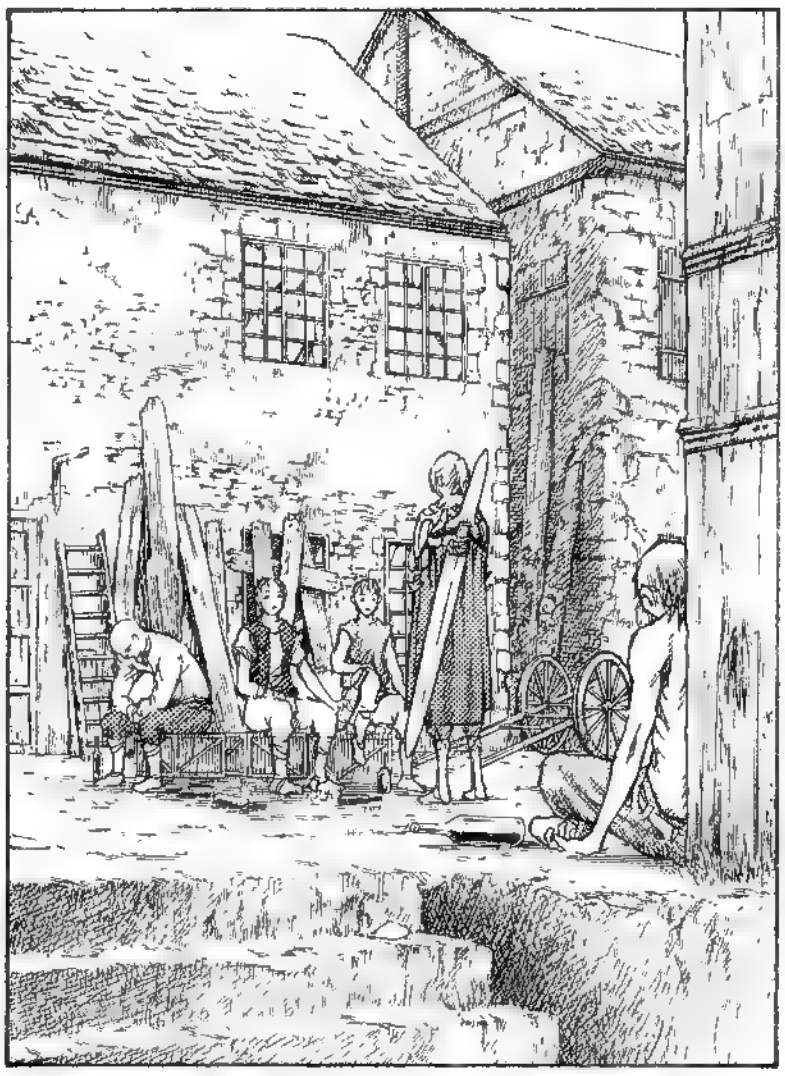
KINDA GLAD THEY'RE GONE, TOO.

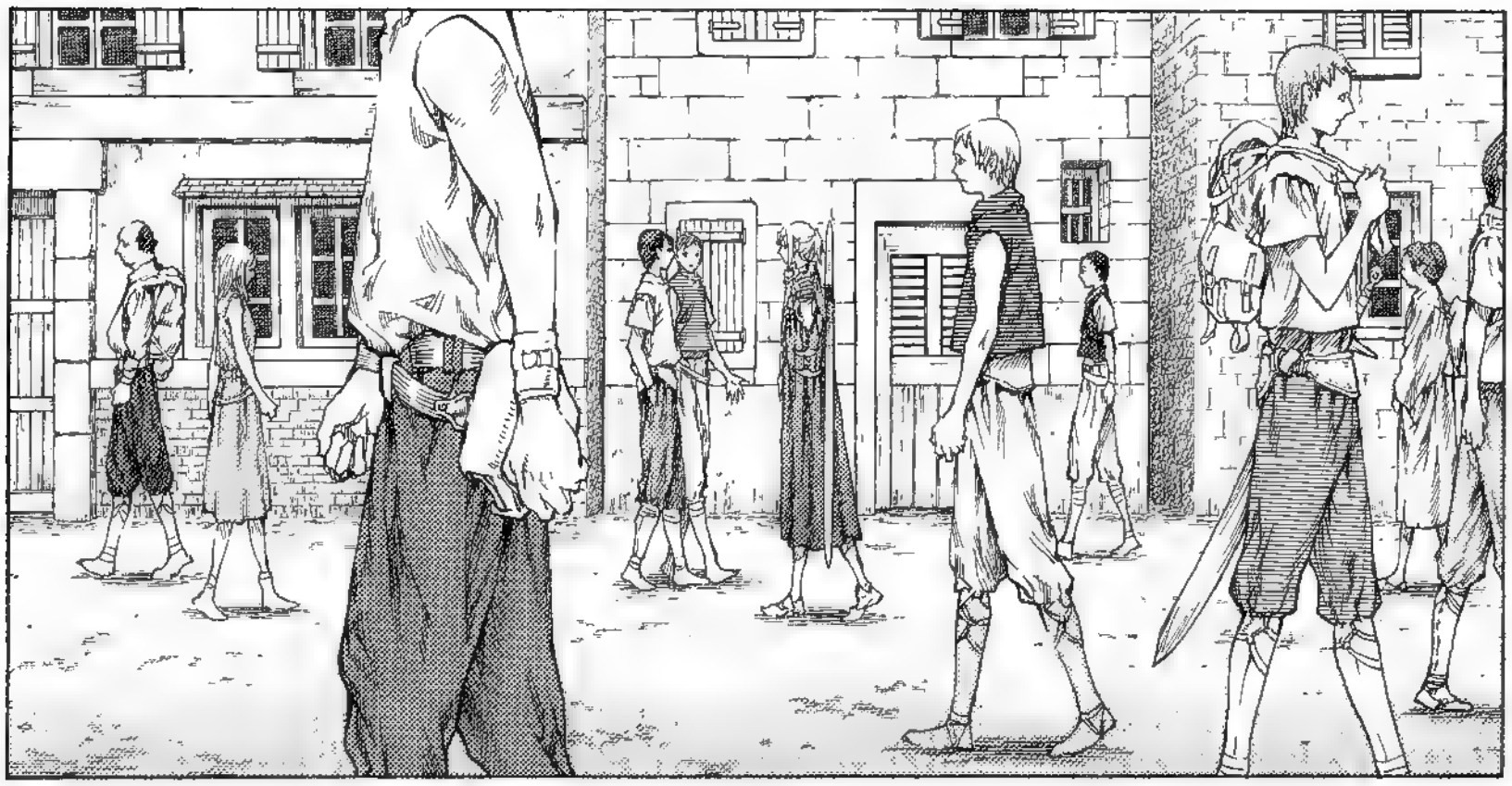
ALL FOUR OF 'EM LEFT BEFORE SUN-UP.

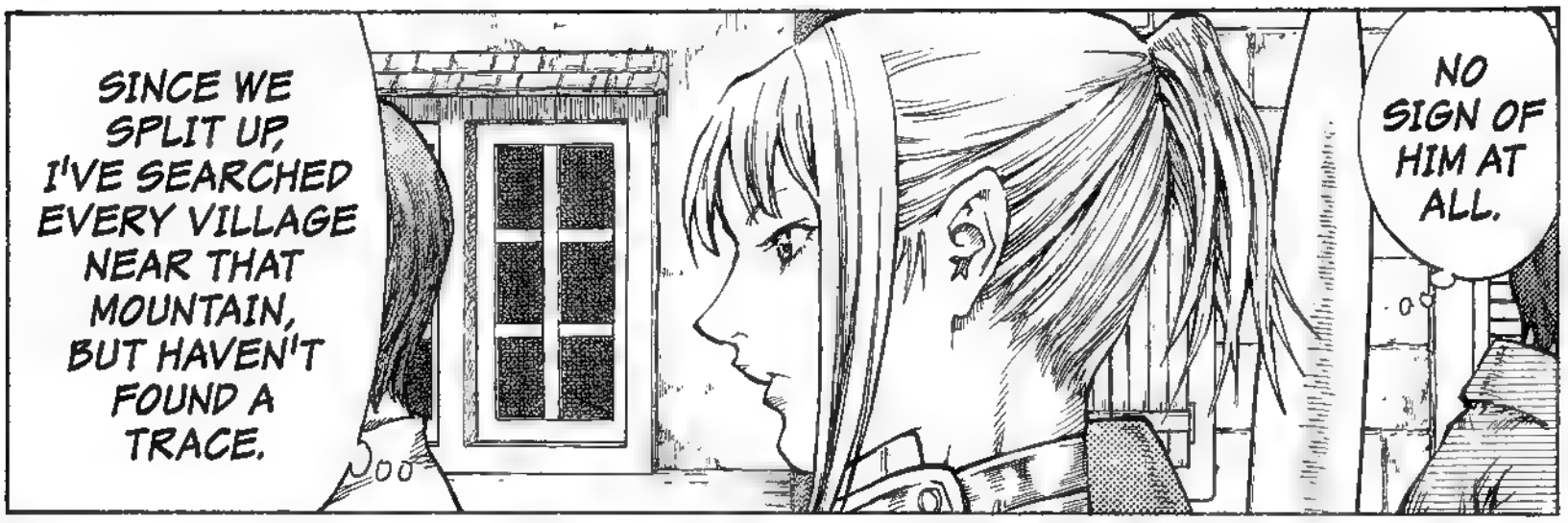











SINCE WE SPLIT UP, I'VE SEARCHED EVERY VILLAGE NEAR THAT MOUNTAIN, BUT HAVEN'T FOUND A TRACE.
NO SIGN OF HIM AT ALL.

WHAT!?

!
WOW! IT'S TERESA AND CLARE!
THEY CALL THESE TWO TERESA AND CLARE!

RAKI...
WHERE DID YOU...

"MAYBE YOU WERE NAMED THAT IN HOPES THAT YOU WOULD BE RAISED TO BECOME LIKE THAT."

"THE NAMES OF TWIN GODDESSES... BEAUTIFUL AND PURE, OVER-FLOWING WITH ABUNDANT LOVE.

I KNEW ALL THAT BEFORE YOU TOLD ME!

AH, YOU HEARD THAT FROM ME JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO.

!

NO! THAT GUY WAS JUST BEGGIN' ME TO TELL HIM WHICH ONE WAS CLARE'S STATUE.

THAT'S 'CAUSE THAT STRANGER TOLD YOU ABOUT IT.

WHAT KIND OF BOY WAS HE?

THAT'S ALL RIGHT.

YEAH, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW THE GUY.

ALL BEAT UP WITH WOUNDS... HE SORTA SCARED ME AT FIRST.

HE WAS ALL RAG-GEDY.

COULD YOU TELL ME WHO YOU WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT?

EX-CUSE ME, CHILD.

!

READ THIS WAY

THEN I WASN'T SCARED, SO I KEPT TALKING TO HIM.

BUT WHEN HE HEARD ABOUT THE IMAGE OF CLARE, HIS EYES GOT ALL SOFT AND GENTLE.

UH... HE'S MY BRO...

!

ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU.

HEY. DO YOU KNOW THAT GUY, MISTER?

UH... NO, I DON'T. I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN THIS VILLAGE SINCE THEN.

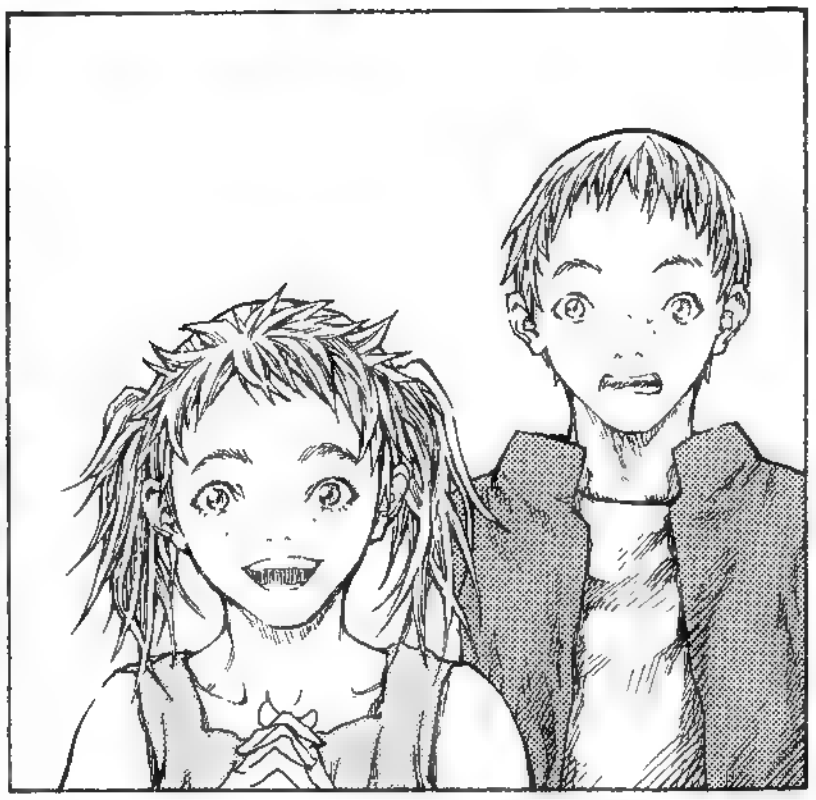
DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE WENT?

I CARE ABOUT HIM SO MUCH THAT I PROMISED I'D FIND HIM EVEN IF I HAD TO RISK MY LIFE.

NO ... HE'S VERY IMPOR-TANT TO ME.

THANKS.

THAT'S GREAT. I HOPE YOU FIND HIM SOON.



READ THIS WAY

GACH

AK

!

GA-CHAK

GA-CHAK

MR MR MR MR

WHAT THE ...?

WH ...

CHAK

CHAK

GYAH!!

READ THIS WAY

SOME-ONE...

PLEASE ...

THE ORGANI-ZATION ...

MY COM-RADES ...

HELP...

KYAH!!

MR MR

MR MR

KA

THUD

HEY!

SPEAK TO ME!

HEY!

AH!

UGK...

GUH...

SPLAT

SPLAT

SPLAT

READ THIS WAY

CON... CONTACT THE ORGANI-ZATION...

PLEASE...

SO STRONG...

SO...

DID AN AWAKENED ONE DO THIS!?

!

WAS IT AN AWAK-ENED ONE!?

GRIP

!!

ARE YOU...

...A COM-RADE?

PLEASE...

SAVE THE OTHERS ...

PLEASE...

THE OTHERS ...

HELP THEM ...

HEL ...

THEY'RE STILL ... ALIVE ...

SOME-THING'S STRANGE... THEY WANT TO TAKE US ALIVE... THEY'RE PLOTTING SOME-THING...

READ THIS WAY

SLUMP

URGH ...

KASH

KAK

!

IF POSSIBLE, I'D LIKE YOU TO GIVE IT A DECENT HUMAN FUNERAL.

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THE BODY.

YOUR ...

... COM-RADES?

THAT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT.

BUSHA

EVEN IF I HAVE GONE INTO HIDING, I CAN'T JUST SIT BACK AND WATCH MY COM-RADES BE MUR-DERED.

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING WITH THAT SWORD, YOUNG FELLAH?

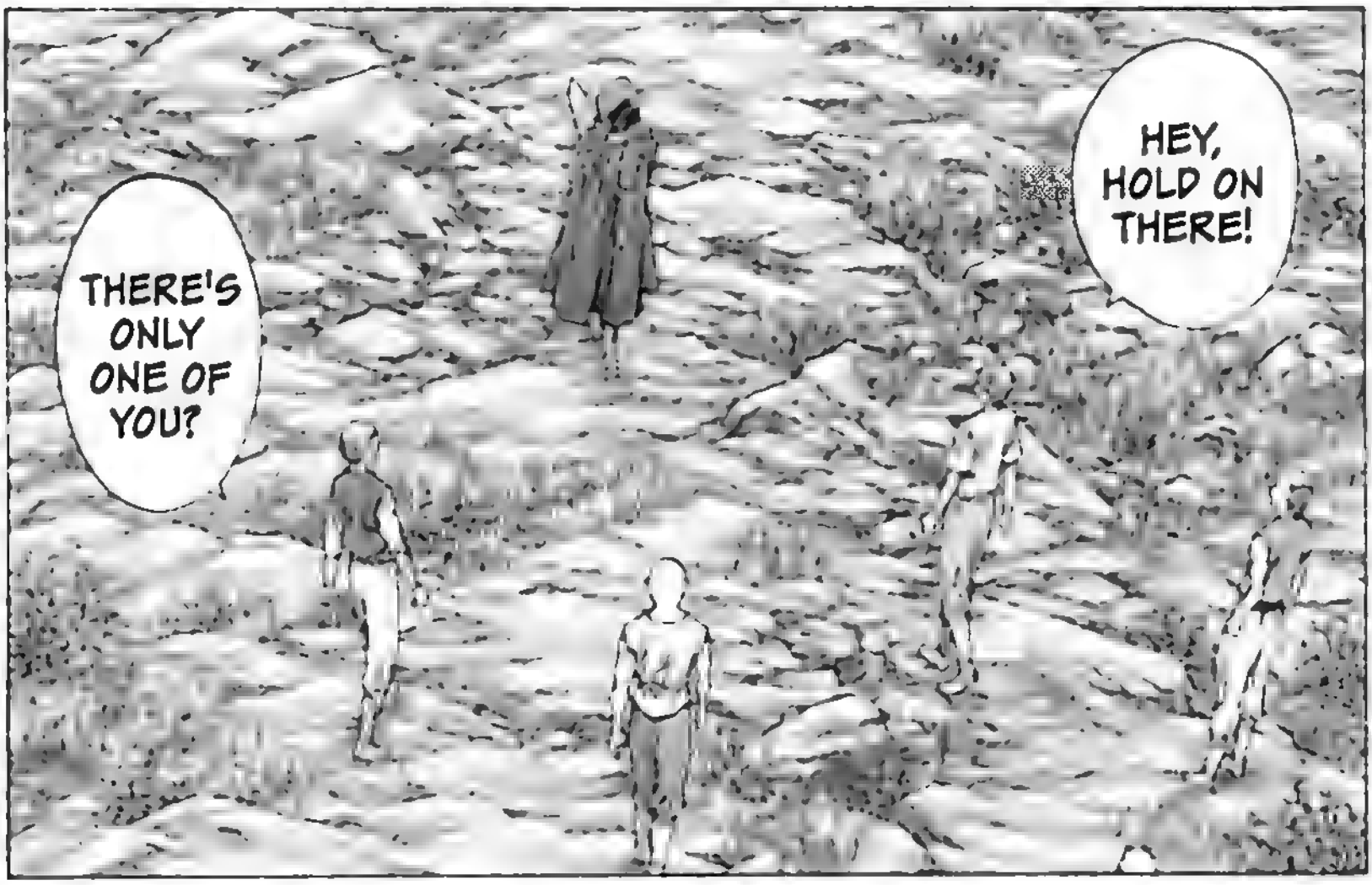
YOU'RE NOT GOING INTO THE MOUNTAINS, ARE YOU? YOU'RE JUST GONNA GET YOURSELF KILLED!

GA
SHAK

I'M GOING TO SUPPORT THE HUNT FOR THE AWAKENED ONE IN ZAKOL.
I'M CLARE, NUMBER 47.

クレイモア
Claymore™

Scene 42: The Witch's Maw, Part 2



HUH?
THEY PREFER TO HUNT ALONE.
USUALLY, THEY DON'T BUNCH UP.
THERE'S WORD THAT SOME KINDA MONSTER LIVES UP THERE.
YOU'D BETTER NOT GO ANY FURTHER INTO THE MOUNTAINS.

Scene 42: The Witch's Maw, Part 2
KA
WHOK

THUD THUD THUD

BA BA SH

YOU ...

...A CLAY-MORE, EH?

BIKI BIKI BIKI BIKI

YOU'RE...

READ THIS WAY

BA BA K

!!

TWSH

!

GOT YA!

FWAP

PA

GRAAH!!

!!

YOU'RE DEAD!

BUT EVEN YOU GUYS CAN'T FACE A MULTIPLE ATTACK IN THE AIR.

MAYBE YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD HUNT US WITHOUT MUCH TROUBLE, I GUESS.

IF ONE OF US GOES AT THE FEET AND ANOTHER AT THE TRUNK, YOUR KIND ALWAYS LEAPS IN THE AIR.

BIKI

GRAAH!!

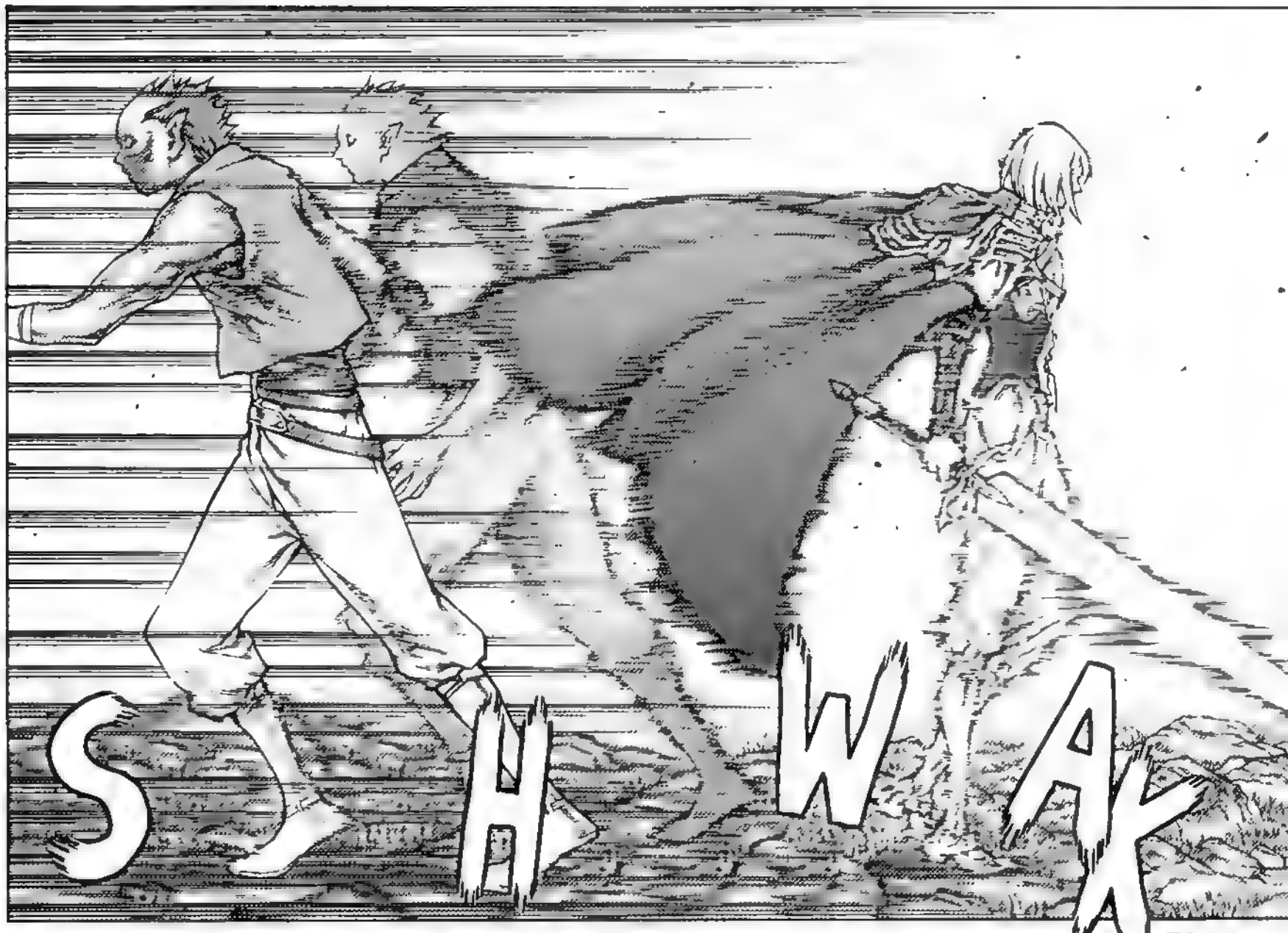
GASHAK

AGH.

GAH ...

HUH!?

...YOU...
...BITCH!
THUMP
SPLAT
SPLAT
SPLAT


SHWAK

READ THIS WAY

EH?

LAUGH WHILE YOU CAN.

HEH HEH HEH.

YOU'RE JUST LIKE THE OTHERS.

IT ISN'T LIKE YOU.

YOU'VE GOT TOO MUCH LEADER-SHIP.

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?

DOBAT

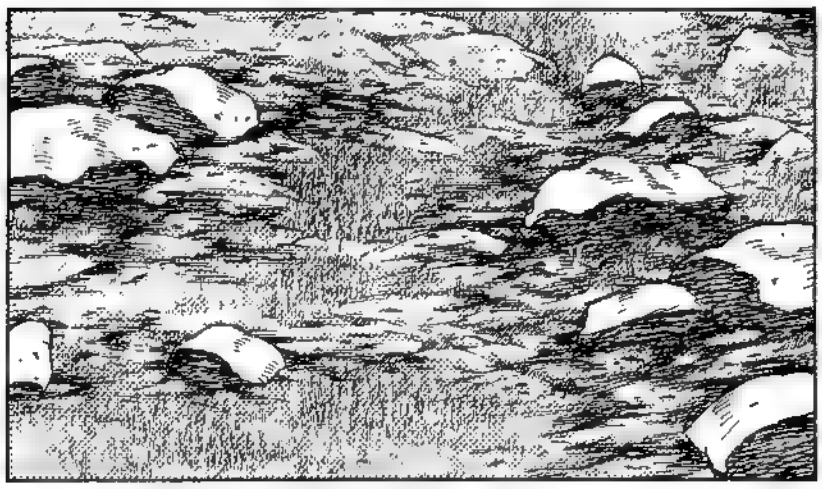
YOU'RE A FOOL SEEK-ING YOUR OWN DEATH.

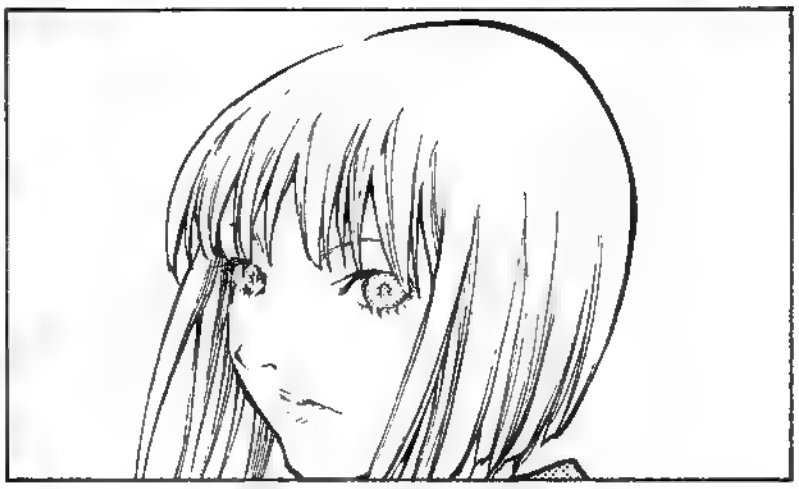
GO THERE AND FIND OUT FOR YOUR-SELF.

GA

SHAK

FWSH



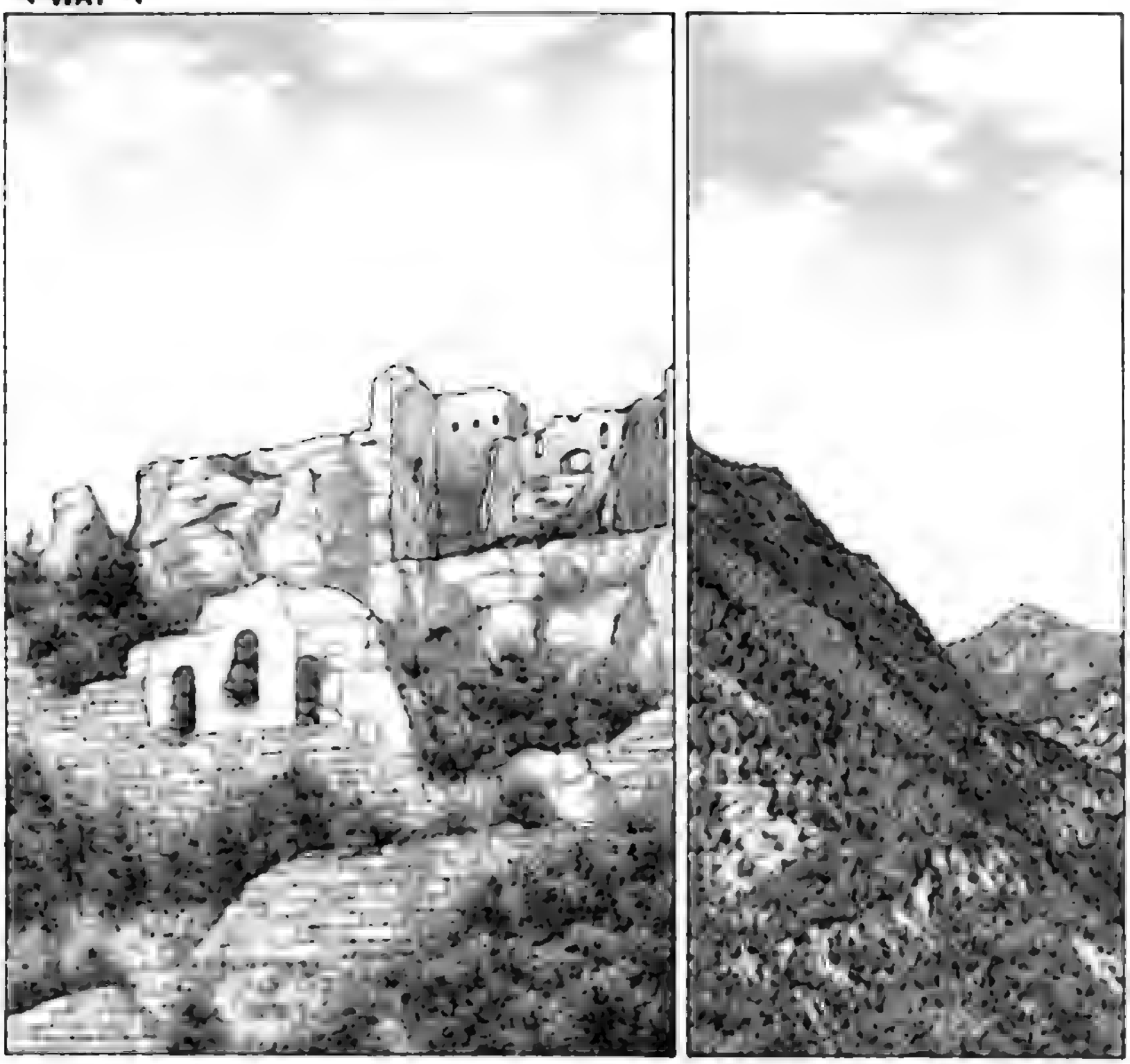


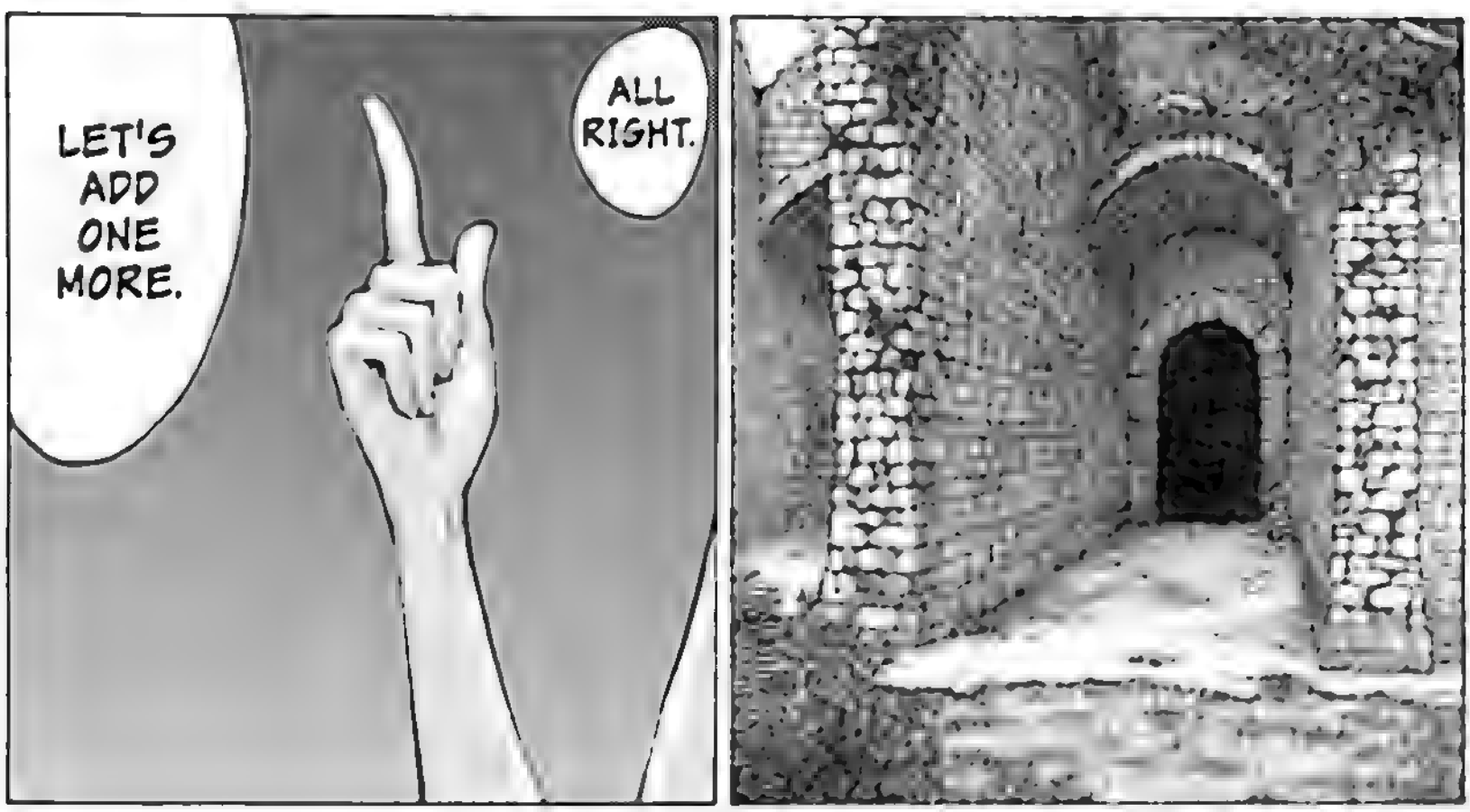
WHY?

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?

...USING STRATEGY BASED ON OUR REAC-TIONS...

YOMA IN GROUPS FOLLOWING ORDERS, COORDI-NATING WITH TWO FLIERS ...


READ THIS WAY


LET'S ADD ONE MORE.
ALL RIGHT.

GYEH!

POK

GRIP

SHLOK

POK POK POK POK POK POK

READ THIS WAY

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

PANT
PANT
PANT

THWOK

THIS MAKES SIX.

!!!

GAAAH!!

AAH!!

HMM. HOW ODD.

I EXPECTED YOU'D WANT TO AWAKEN BY NOW.

GYEH HEH.

SL URP

UGH ...

UG ...

UG ...

GAHA!

GAH!

UGH GA HA!

!!

TWIST

TWIST

TWIST

IF YOU DON'T HURRY UP AND AWAKEN, YOU END UP FULL OF HOLES AND DEAD, LIKE THAT ONE OVER THERE.

DON'T YOU CARE?

TOUGH, AREN'T YOU?

READ THIS WAY

AH!
AH!
AH!
!
YOU ...
YOU ...
GAH ...
GAH ...
GAH ...
BIKI
BIKI
BIKI
BIKI
GAH ...
BIKI
WELL, NOW!
THAT'S THE WAY.
ONCE YOU AWAKEN, ALL YOUR WOUNDS WILL HEAL AND YOUR PAIN WILL VANISH.
DON'T DO IT, KATEA!
STOP IT!

AGH!

THWO

STOP IT, KATEA!

DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A MON-STER!?

DON'T INSULT US LIKE THAT.

WHO YOU CALLIN' A MON-STER?

DON'T PUT ANY MORE IN TILL I TELL YOU.

HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

BUT SHE...

...ARE THE ONES I KILL FIRST!

BIKI

BIKI

BIKI

THE ONES WHO INSULT US...

BIKI

FWOK

GAH.
GAH.
GAH.
GAH.
GAH.

SHE'S PAST HER LIMITS.
THAT'S IT!

!!!

KATEA...

BOK

BOK

GAH.

GAH.

GAH.

BOK

BOK

BOK

GRA GA GA GA!

NOW... REMOVE THE MANA-CLES.

RIGHT!

GET READY, DAUF!

!!!

EW

OM

BOK
BOK
BOK
BOK
BOK
BOK
BOK

GAH.
GAH.
GAH.

GAH.
GAH.
GAH.
GRAH.

WH...
WHAT...
WHAT ARE YOU DO-ING?

GOOOOOOH
AH...
AH...
GAH.
GEK
GEK
GEK
GRAK

WHA

K

GAH

GEH
...

GAH
...
AH...

!!!

GAH!

FWOOOSH

HMM.

WELL, DAUF?

HOW IS IT?

DO GAAT

!!

NOT STRONG ENOUGH.

THIS ONE'S NO GOOD.

KUK

KUK

CRUSH HER.

OH WELL.

THIRTY AWAK-ENED ONES AND STILL NO LUCK.

REALLY? TOO BAD.

GAH

S...STOP!

KATEA!

DOGAAAT

I GUESS I WAS RIGHT. ONLY A ONE-DIGIT LIKE YOURSELF WILL DO.

SO

READ THIS WAY

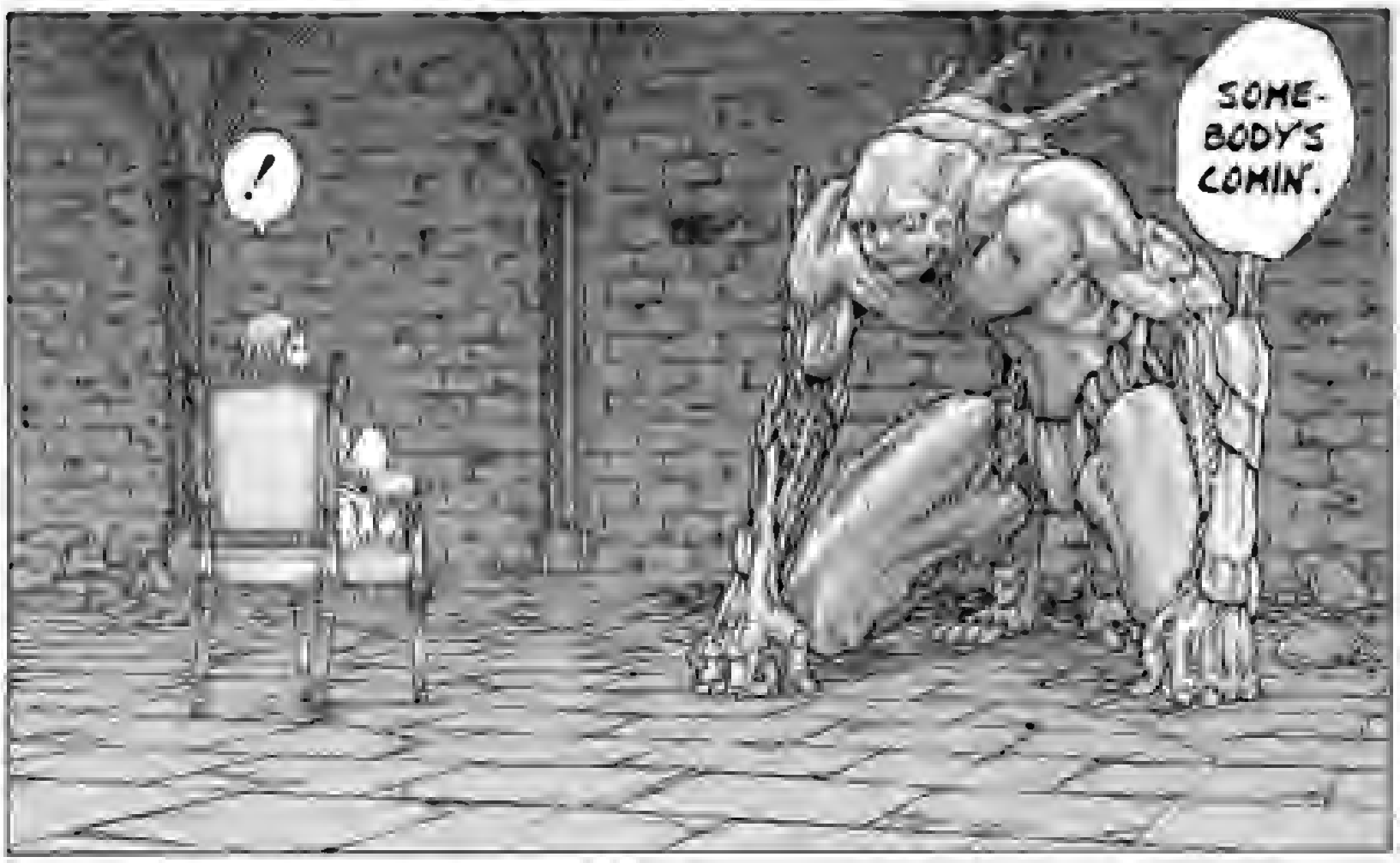
WARRIOR NUMBER 9, JEAN.

SO HURRY UP AND AWAKEN, WILL YOU?

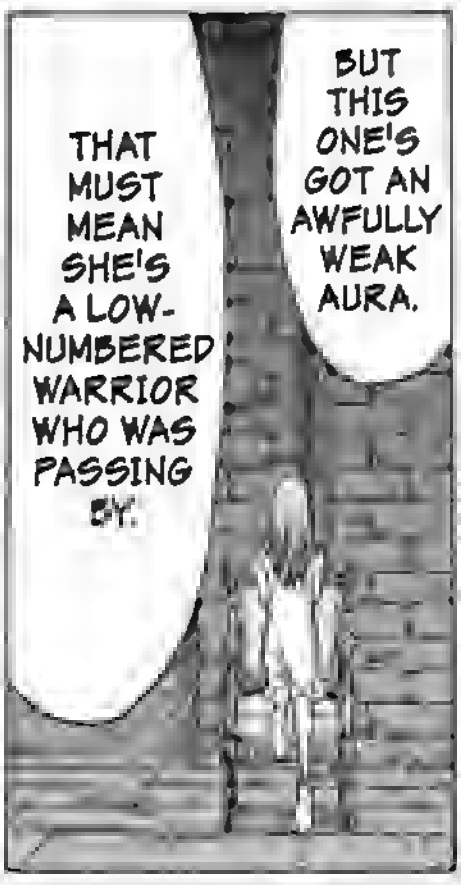
YOU FILTHY ...

YOU ...

GLINT


!
SOME-
BODY'S
COMIN'.

YOU
CAN
HAVE
HER,
DALF.
DO
WHAT-
EVER
YOU
WANT.
WE
CAN'T
EXPECT
HER TO
AWAK-
EN.


THAT
MUST
MEAN
SHE'S
A LOW-
NUMBERED
WARRIOR
WHO WAS
PASSING
BY.
BUT
THIS
ONE'S
GOT AN
AWFULLY
WEAK
AURA.

THAT
ONE WHO
ESCAPED
MANAGED
TO CALL
HELP
PRETTY
FAST.
YOU'RE
RIGHT.

READ THIS WAY

GYEH HEH.

GYEH HEH HEH.

!

GA

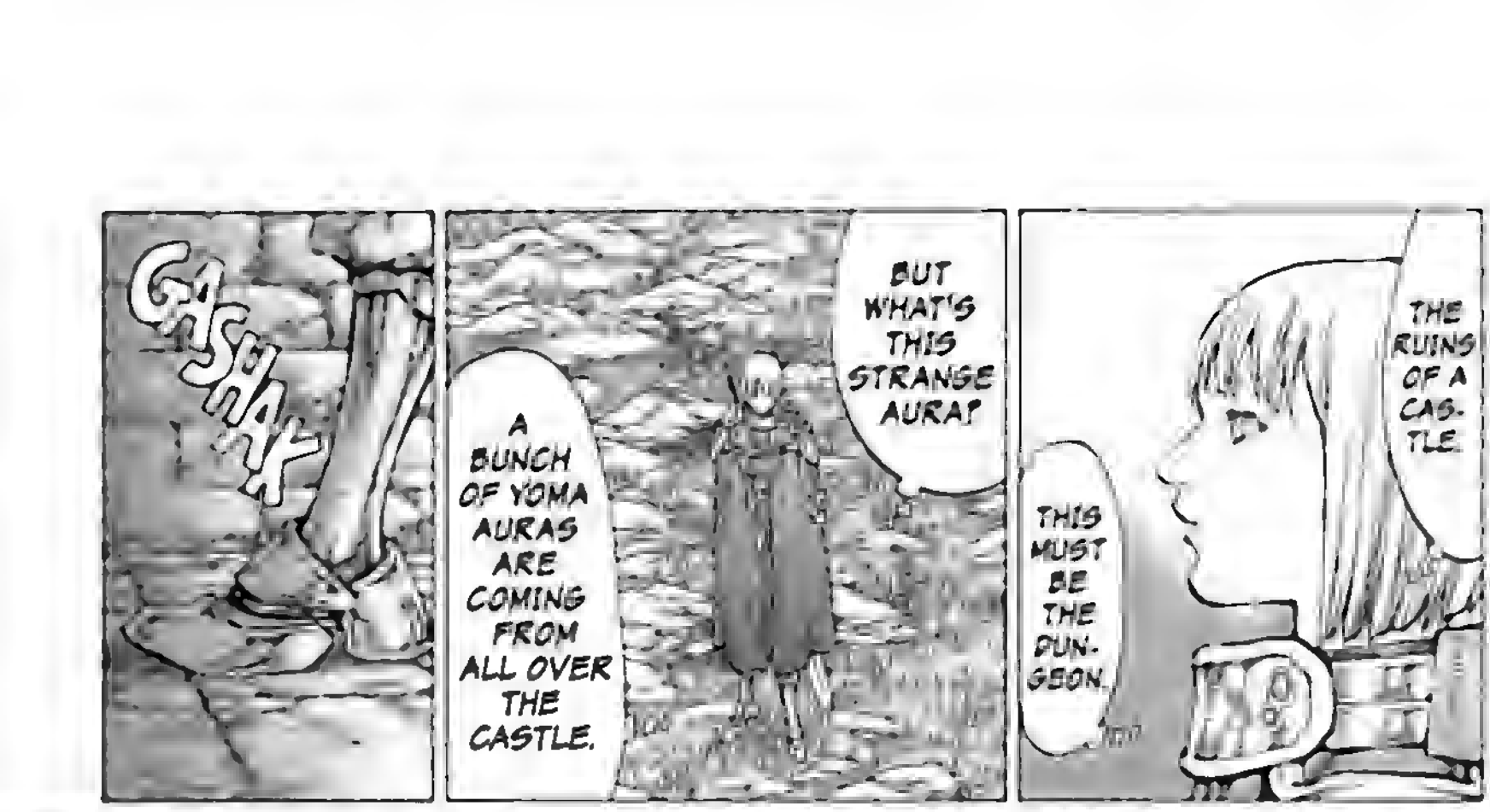
SHAK

ZAK

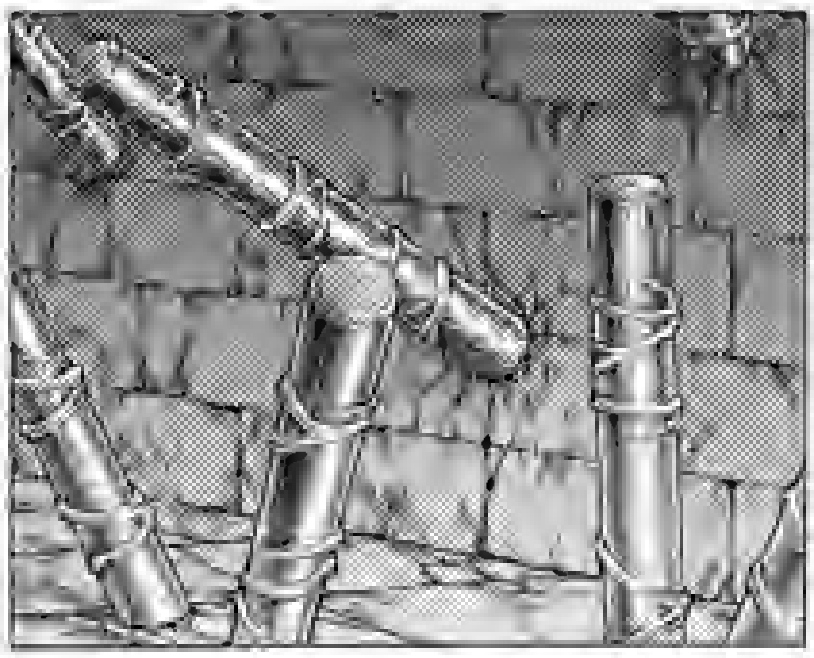
ZAK

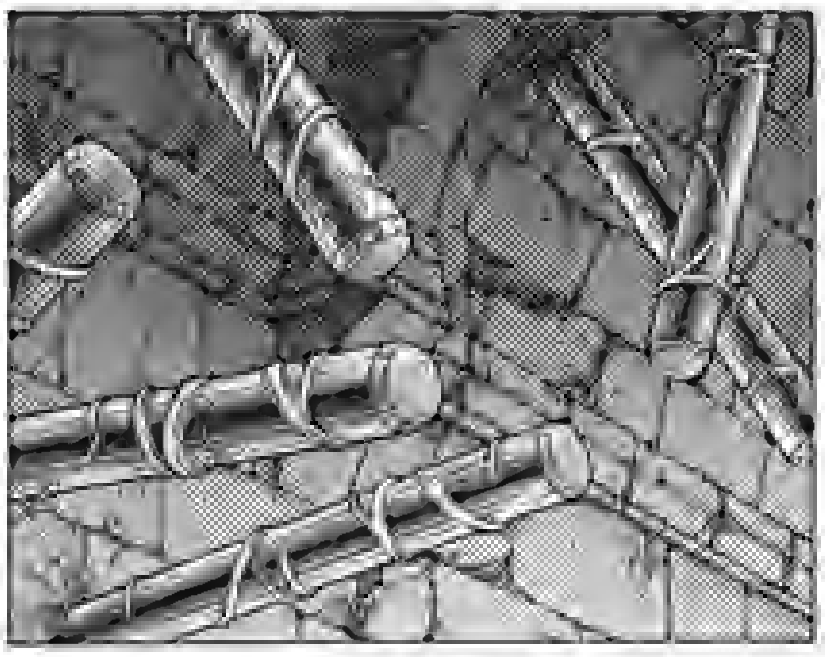
ZAK

クレイモア
Claymore™


GASHAK
A BUNCH OF YOMA AURAS ARE COMING FROM ALL OVER THE CASTLE.
BUT WHAT'S THIS STRANGE AURA?
THIS MUST BE THE DUN-GEON.
THE RUINS OF A CAS-TLE.

Scene 43: The Witch's Maw, Part 3





GASHA

THESE HAVE A PULSE.
SO THAT'S WHY THERE WERE MULTI-PLE AURAS.

SSH
TAP
TAP
TAP

HOW STRONG CAN THIS THING BE?

TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF ITS BODY AND PRODUCE THESE THINGS, THIS ONE MUST HAVE MASSIVE ENERGY.

IS EACH ONE OF THESE A PIECE OF A YOMA'S BODY?

UUU

WSSH

!!

TWO AURAS ...

GASH!

YOMA!

THWOK

THWOK

CHANG

CHANG

GRAAH!!

!!

BA

BA

BAT

A NASTY LITTLE TRICK!

WITH ALL THE YOMA AURAS AROUND HERE, I DIDN'T SENSE THEM COMING!

TCH!

GA SHAN

GASHUT

LJBAT

FWSH

GRAAH!!

CHING

!!

GRAAH!!

THESE RODS ARE STOPPING ME FROM SWING-ING MY LONG SWORD.

DAMN!

THOK

ZUBA.AT.

FWSH

!

DO GAAAAAT

READ THIS WAY

POK

DASH

HYAAH!!

EH ...

EH ... AH ...

!!

DO GAAAT

GU GA!
GE!
BIKI
GA!
GA!
BIKI BIKI BIKI
GA GA!
GA!
CAN'T ALLOW THAT.
YOU RAN ...
GWA!
GA ...
KUK
KUK KUK KUK
GA!
GE!
GA!
GA-SHUK

BLOP

BLOP

BLOP

!

I DO SO MUCH TO SET THINGS UP FOR THESE FOOLS, ALL FOR NOTHING.

KRAK

KRAK

FOOLS...

WH-WHAT THE...

THIS AURA IS GIGAN-TIC...

WORTH-LESS FOOLS ...

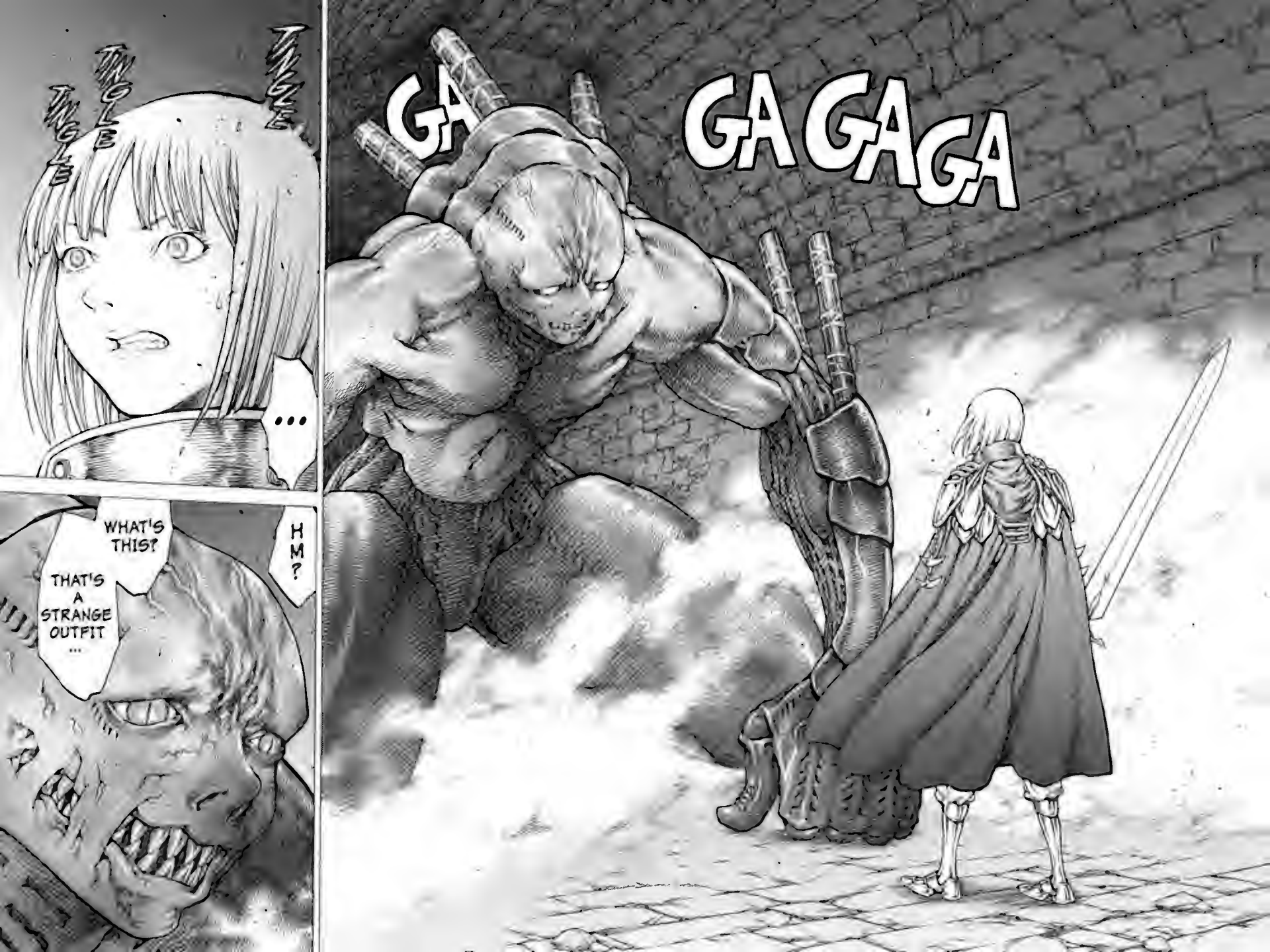
SPLAT

THE WHOLE LOT OF THEM.

TINGLE

TINGLE

TINGLE.


TINGLE
TINGLE
TINGLE
...
HM?
WHAT'S THIS?
THAT'S A STRANGE OUTFIT ...
GA
GA GAGA

IF YOU'RE A MAN, THERE'S NO USE PLAYING WITH YOU... HOW BORING.

SAY... YOU'RE A MAN, ARE YA?

GO GO GO

!

HUH?

SSH

WELL THEN, I'LL JUST PEEL OFF YOUR CLOTHES AND FIND OUT.

WSSH

I CAN'T MOVE.

IT'S SO NAR-ROW HERE.

GSH

HUH?

HUH?

GSH

!

GA

CHAAN

OW
...

OW
OW
OW.

!!!

THAT HURT!
WHAT D'YA DO THAT FOR?

GA
CHAAN

SSSH

!!

READ THIS WAY

CHANG

AGH.

AH...

OUCH.

I CAN'T MOVE HERE.

I...

CHANG

OW.

OW.

OW.

CHAK

!!

CHAK

!

CHAK

GUH!

WEAK...

...AREN'T YA?

GASH

AK

GUH

!!

WHOF

ZA
ZAT
GRH!
ACK!
POK
BWE HE HE HE!
WHAT'S A WAR-RIOR DO WHEN THEY DROP THEIR SWORD?
KA
WHAM

FW ISH

GRIP

BIKI BIKI BIKI BIKI BIKI

HM?

SO WAS THIS.

BIKI BIKI

IT'S A TRAP.

YOU FOOL.

QUICK-SWORD!

TINGLE TINGLE TINGLE

!

PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE DAUF BRING HER DOWN HERE AFTER ALL.

WOW... THEY'RE REALLY GOING AT IT.

WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH US?

YOU... WHAT ...

AHEH!

AHEH!

AHEH!

OH, THAT'S SECRET!

BUT I'LL TELL YOU... IF YOU AWAKEN AND JOIN US.

!

SNICKER

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

!

WHO WOULD WANT TO JOIN MON-STERS?

YOU'RE CRAZY!

AWAKENED BEINGS AND HALF YOMA AREN'T REALLY ALL THAT DIFFERENT.

THE ONLY DIFFER-ENCE IS... WHICH ONE HAS A FREE WILL?

!

IN THE EYES OF THE COMMON PEOPLE, *YOU'RE* A MONSTER, AREN'T YOU?

WELL...

THE FACT THAT BOTH OF THEM ARE NO LONGER HUMAN.

ONE THING IS FOR CERTAIN ...

YOU'RE HATED AND REVILED YOUR WHOLE LIFE.

IT SEEMS RATHER STUPID, REALLY.

AND THE HUMANS DON'T EVEN THANK YOU.

YOU'RE CAST OUT BY HUMANS, YOU'RE NO LONGER HUMAN, YET YOU FIGHT FOR HUMANS.

AND WHEN YOUR WORK IS FINISHED, YOU THROW AWAY YOUR OWN LIFE.

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S SILLY?

READ THIS WAY

ONCE YOU SEE THAT, EVERYTHING ELSE BECOMES EASY TO ACCEPT.

OF COURSE WE'RE A DIFFER-ENT SPECIES THAN THE HUMANS.

AND WHY NOT? BECAUSE THEY'RE A DIFFER-ENT SPECIES.

OF COURSE NOT.

DO YOU SHED TEARS FOR THE COWS, THE PIGS, THE SHEEP OR THE BIRDS THAT HUMANS FEED ON?

IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T UNDER-STAND YOUR ARGU-MENT...

THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR OPIN-IONS.

!

AM I WRONG?

WELL?

IT'S JUST PROVI-DENCE.

IT'S JUST LOGIC.

IT'S JUST NATURE.

YOUR CURRENT THINKING IS WHAT'S UNNATURAL.

I LIKE IT WHEN YOU TALK LIKE THAT.

THAT MAKES ME WANT TO HAVE YOU JOIN US EVEN MORE.

BUT SINCE I WAS BORN A HUMAN, I LIVE FOR HUMANS.

THAT'S THE ONE TRUTH INSIDE ME.

GAAAAAAAA

OW ...

OW OW OW.

WHA ...

GAAAA

IT REALLY STUNG.

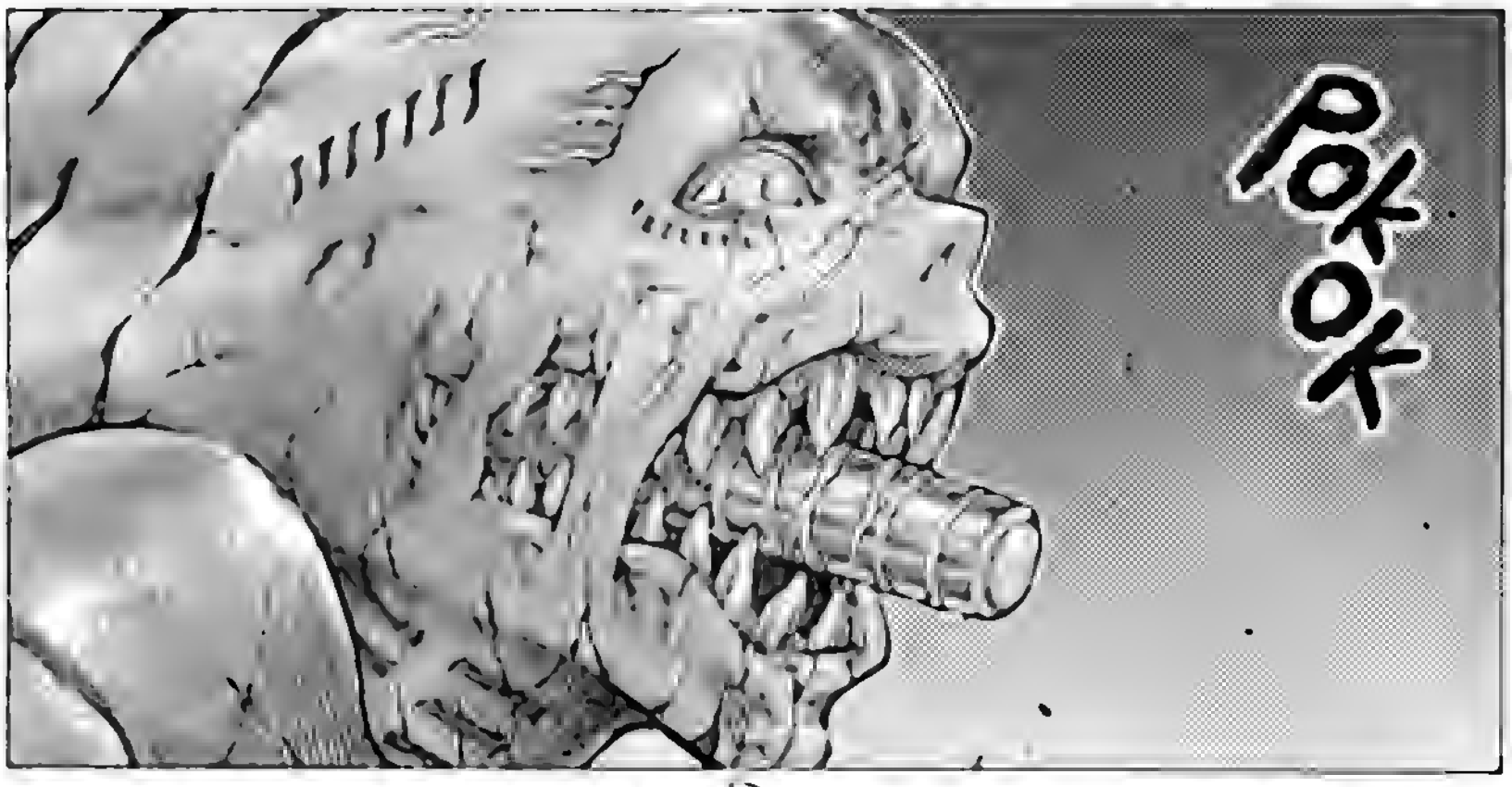
THAT LAST ONE HURT.

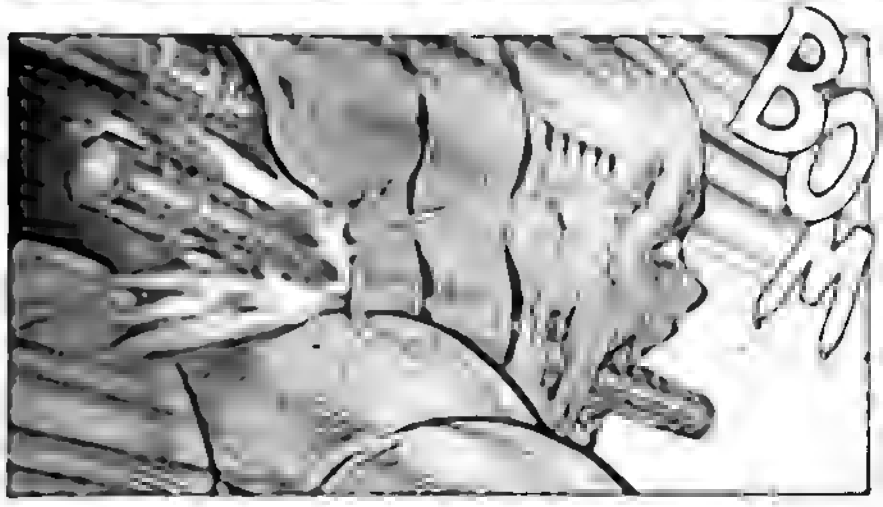
TIME TO PAY THE PIPER.

ALL RIGHT, YOU.

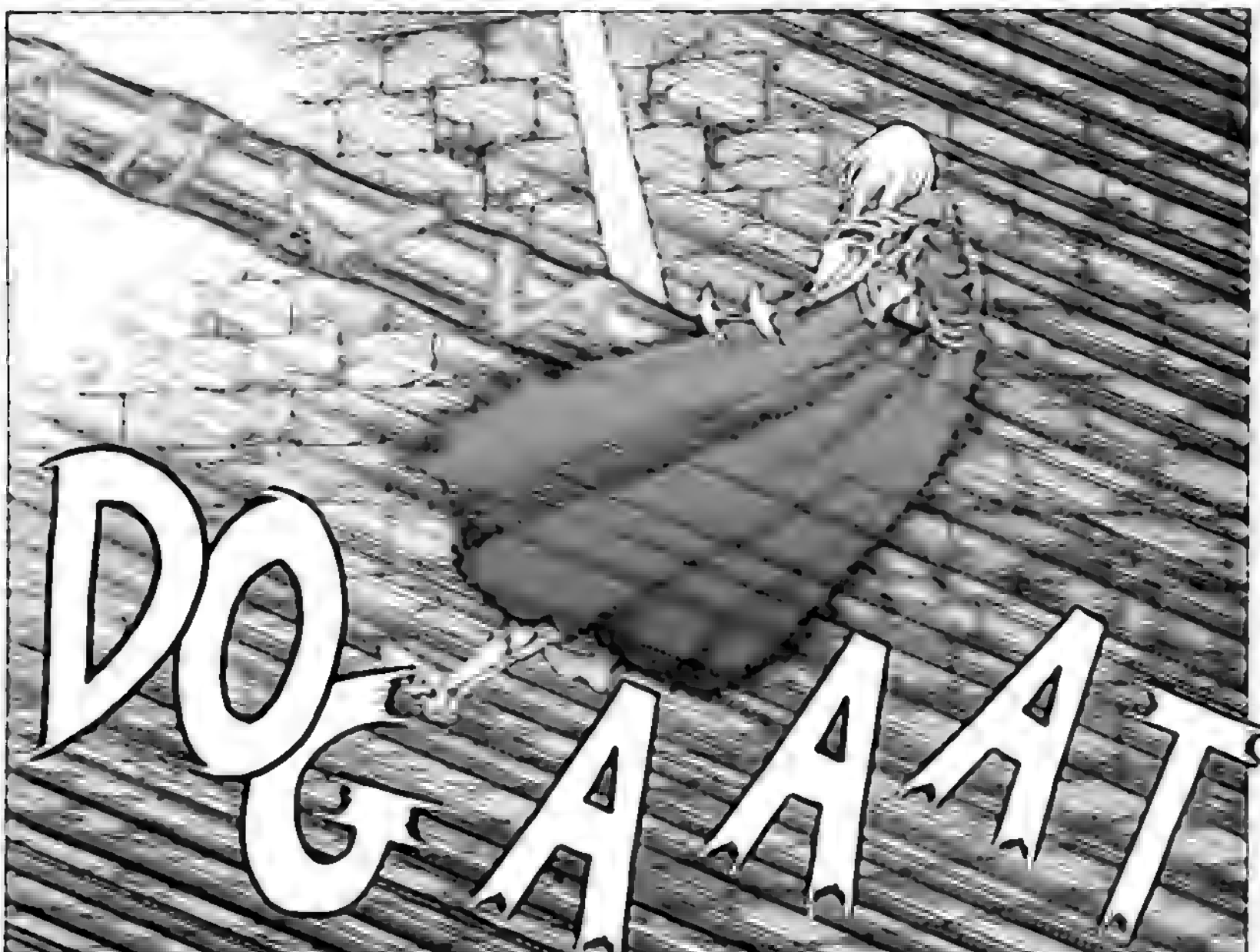
NO ...

IT CAN'T BE...


POK OK


BOOM

!!


DO-GA-AA-AT

READ THIS WAY

UGH!

DOGAT

NUM-
BER
TWO.

POKOK

GAH!

GAH!

GAH!

ZAAAAA

DO GA AAT

ARGH!

AGH!

BIKI BIKI BIKI BIKI

UH ...

UH ... UH ...

DO GA GAN GAN

READ THIS WAY

IT'S HARDER TO FIX CRUSHED BONES THAN IT IS TO REATTACH A SEVERED LIMB.

SURPRISED?

!

UH ...

UH ...

!

CLUMP

NOW, LET'S GET BACK TO PEELIN' YOU...

AND SEEIN' IF YOU'RE MAN OR WOMAN.

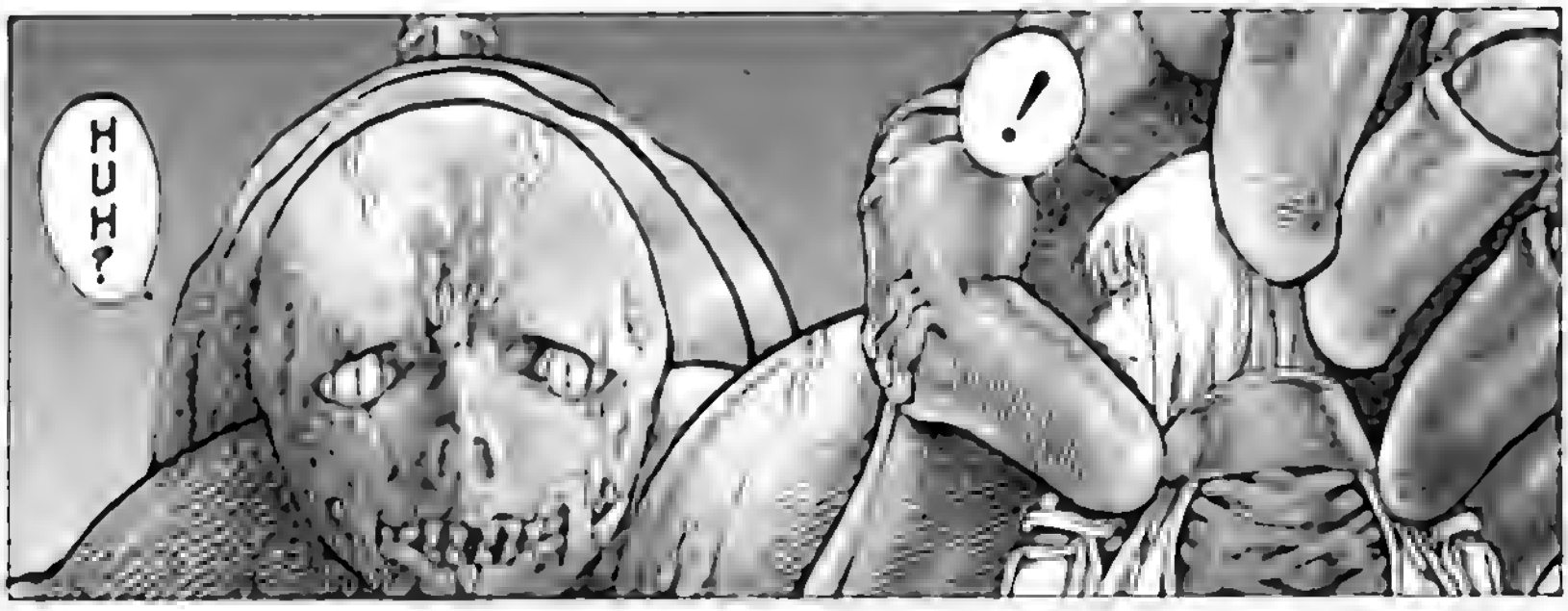
SLURP

MUUUU

AH ...

AGH ...

WELL, WELL, WELL ...

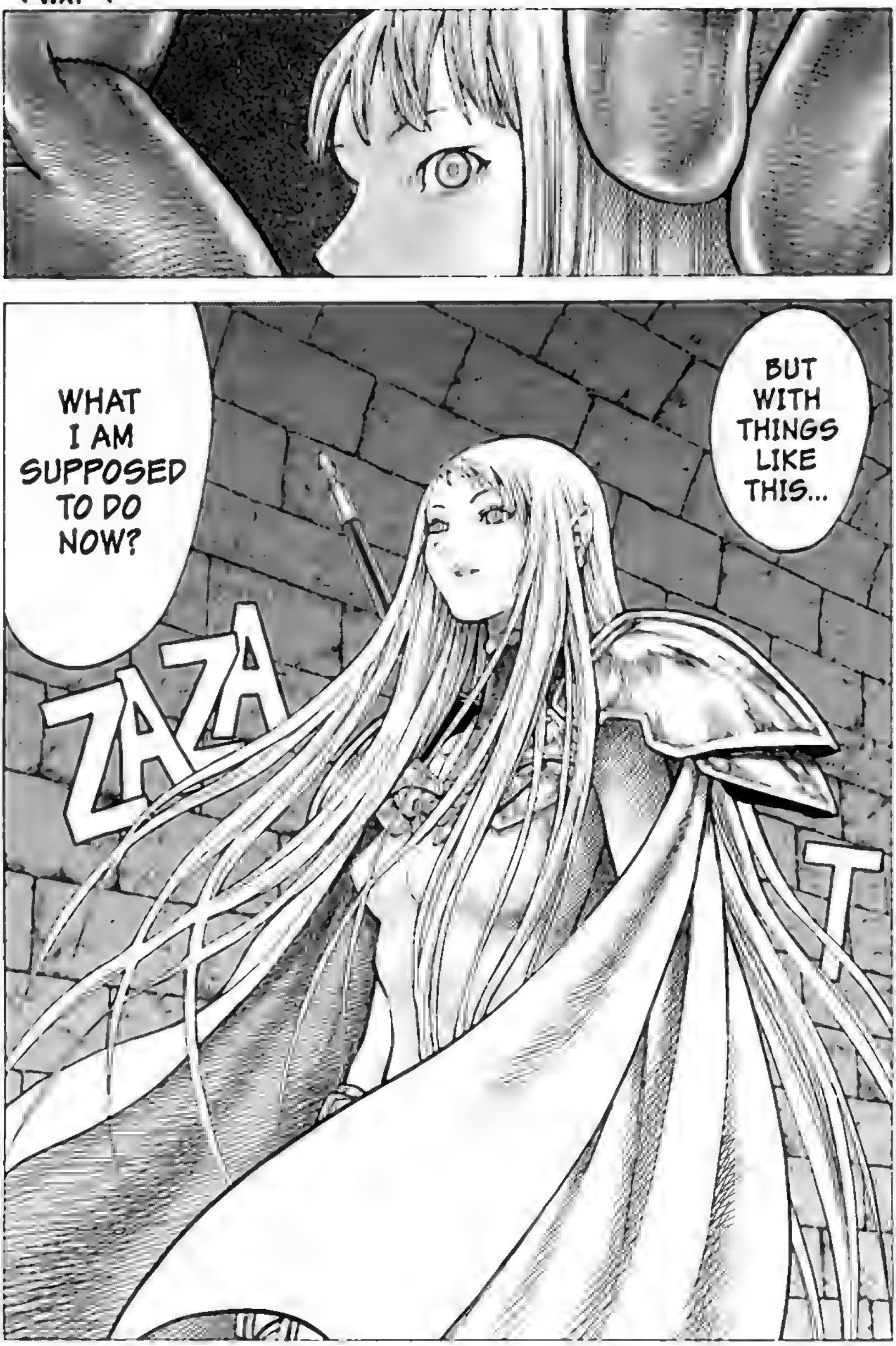

HUH?
!

!

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT OUR-SELVES A STRONG ONE NOW.
OH MY!

...FOR FINDING YOU SO QUICKLY.
AND HERE I WAS SO PLEASED WITH MYSELF ...
GASHAK
GASHAK
GASHAK

READ THIS WAY



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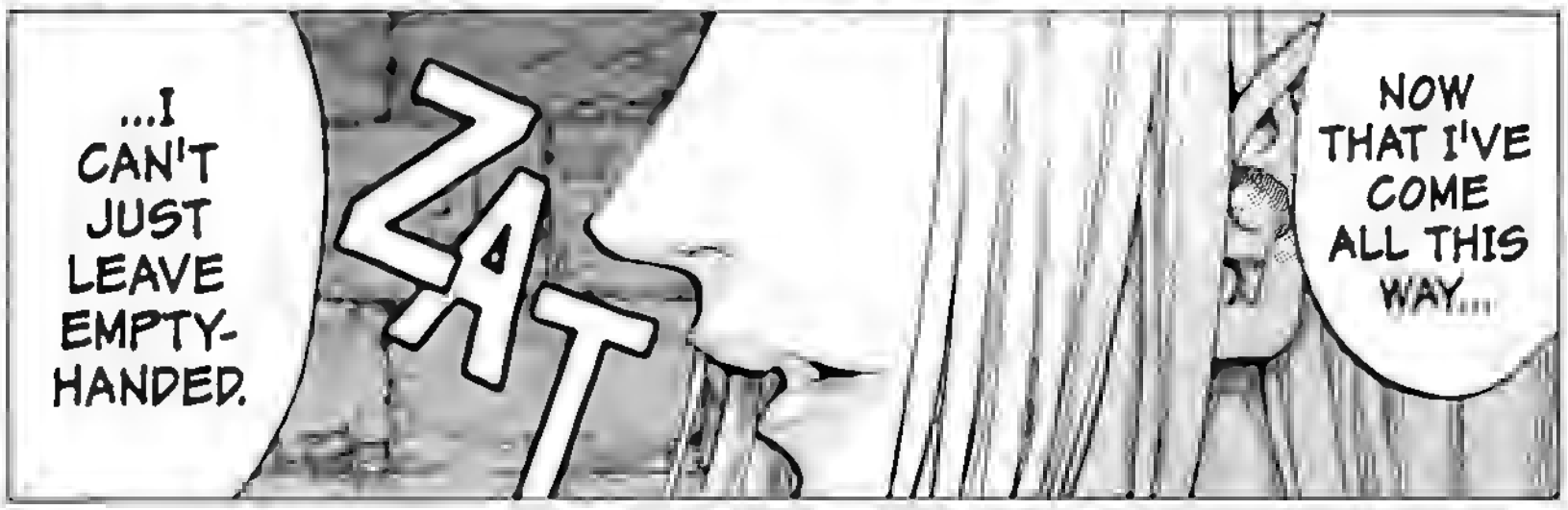
SCENE 44: THE WITCH'S MAW, PART 4



Scene 44: The Witch's Maw, Part 4

READ THIS WAY

GARA

!

HEH HEH... LOOKS LIKE I'VE GOT ANOTHER PLAY-THING.

DON'T NEED THIS ONE NO MORE.

WHY IS SHE HERE?

DID SHE COME LOOKING FOR ME?

GAAH!!

KREK

KREK

KREK

AH...

GRIN

SHAK

ZUU

DOSAT

HUH?

!!

READ THIS WAY

YOU NEED TO EAT MORE.

YOU'RE LIGHTER THAN YOU LOOK.

!!?

I'LL BE ON MY WAY NOW. GOOD-BYE.

SHE'S ALL I CAME FOR.

ZAT

FWOOM

WATCH OUT!

HE'LL ...

EH?

THICK

DO GAAA

EH?

TMP TMP TMP

READ THIS WAY

WHAT D'YA THINK YOU'RE DOING?

BIKI BIKI BIKI BIKI BIKI

HOLD ON...

GA SH AK

FWAAA

GRAH!!

TAKE THIS!

THUK
THUK
THUK
THUK
THUK
THUK
THUK
THUK
IS SHE ...
... THE SAME AS ME?
THUK THUK THUK
WHAT THE ...?
WHY AREN'T THEY HIT-TING!?
THUK THUK THUK

READ THIS WAY

SHE'S NOT MOVING HERSELF OUT OF THE WAY AT ALL!

NO! IT'S DIFFER-ENT!

BUT SHE MAKES THE ATTACK ITSELF DEFLECT!

I READ MY OPPO-NENT'S ENERGY AND MOVE BEFORE THE ATTACK.

FWOM

HOW IS THAT POSSI-BLE?

BUT HOW?

DOGA AAA

DA DA DA

DOGA !

GA SHAK

PER-HAPS HE'S GOT A BRAIN AFTER ALL.

HMM... I UNDER-ESTI-MATED HIM.

DADA

NOBODY MAKES A FOOL OUTTA ME AND GETS AWAY WITH IT.

YOU AIN'T GOIN' NO-WHERE.

I'M GONNA STRIP YA NAKED, TEAR OFF YOUR HANDS AND FEET, RIP OPEN YOUR BELLY AND SUCK OUT YOUR GUTS.

I'M GONNA KILL YA.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU TRIED TO TAKE ON THAT CREATURE.

ZAT

HOW-EVER ...

I'M NOT TALK-ING ABOUT THIS ONE.

BE CAREFUL! HE'S GOT A TOUGH HIDE THAT A SWORD CAN'T CUT, AND...

SHH

YOU SIT HERE AND HEAL YOUR LEGS.

IF YOU CALM DOWN AND RELAX, IT'S NOT THAT HARD.

I MEAN THE OTHER ONE DOWN-STAIRS.

WERE YOU ACTU-ALLY TRYING TO GET YOUR-SELF KILLED?

SHE'S DONE A PRETTY GOOD JOB OF HIDING HER AURA, BUT IT'S STILL DETECT-ABLE.

IF YOU CAN ALIGN WAVE-LENGTHS WITH YOUR OPPONENT'S AURA AT THE CORRECT LOCATION, YOU CAN FIND THEM. YOU'RE A WARRIOR PROFICIENT IN READING YOMA AURAS, AREN'T YOU?

!!

READ THIS WAY

CONCEN-TRATE ON FIXING YOUR LEGS.

BUT DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT FOR NOW.

!

GAGA GAGA

HUH?

WHAT D'YA MEAN?

DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WERE GOING TO STRIP ME NAKED, TEAR OFF MY LIMBS, RIP OPEN MY BELLY AND SUCK OUT MY GUTS?

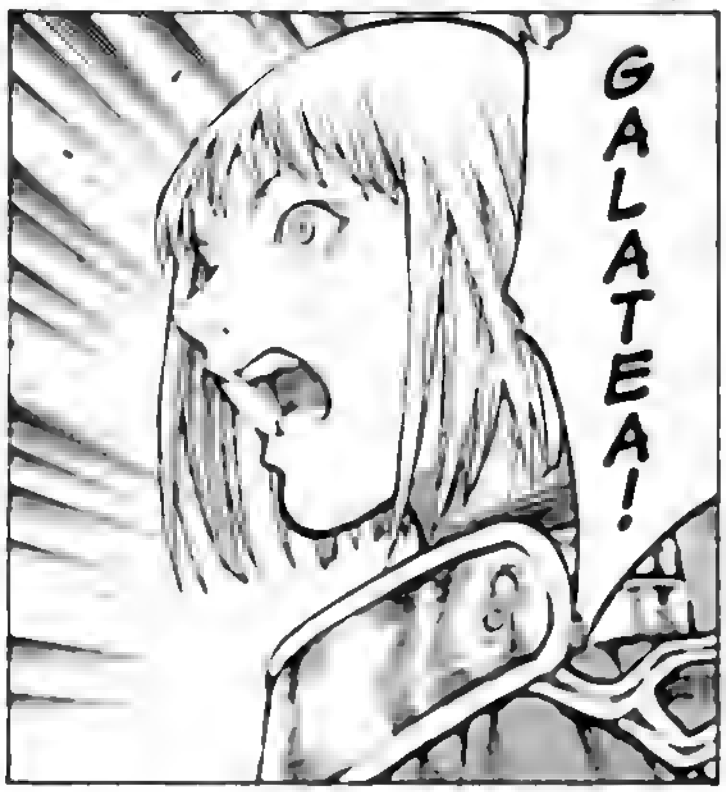
...I'LL JUST HAVE TO SMASH YA!

GO OOO

SINCE MY RODS WON'T HIT YA...

GAAAAAT

BWA HA HA HA HA HA HA!
AND SHE THOUGHT SHE COULD TAKE ME!


GALATEA!

READ THIS WAY

HA?

IT MUST BE NICE TO HAVE A BRAIN THAT REGENER-ATES.

IT SEEMS YOU FORGET EVERY-THING JUST AS SOON AS YOU HEAR IT.

WSSSH

GOH!

HUH?

FWOOM

GAKAK

GAKAAAK

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

ZUSHAT

READ THIS WAY

I SEE ...

A REGU-LAR ATTACK WON'T PIERCE THAT HIDE.

HM?

AH?

GRAAH!

FWOM

GURX

SMILE

DO GA AA

FSH

!

!!?

GA SHUN

GAH!

!!

I THOUGHT SO. EVEN A HIDE THIS TOUGH HAS ITS WEAK POINTS.

FSSH

FSSH

BA
SHAK

YOU
...
WHOSH
FSSH

GAH!
GRAAH!!

READ THIS WAY

SUKA

GRIP

ZA

KO

K

WHA...

WHAT...

LOOKS LIKE THE ONE TAKING HANDS AND FEET...

...IS GOING TO BE ME.

ZUBAAT

DOSHAAAK

!!

SO THIS IS HOW STRONG NUMBER THREE IS.

MY GOD!

AGH!

GAH!

AGH ...

AH ...

BUT HOW DOES SHE FIGHT LIKE THAT?

IT'S LIKE SHE CAN MANIPULATE HER OPPONENT AS SHE WILLS.

READ THIS WAY

STOP YOUR WHIN-ING.

IT MAKES YOUR FACE EVEN UGLIER.

GA SHAK

LOOK.

LOOK WHAT YOU DID.

SOB

SOB

YOU... CUT ME.

HE REALLY IS A FOOL.

!

A FOOL.

I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER BE ABLE TO TAKE MUCH PRIDE IN HIM AS MY MAN.

AND THAT'S WHY...

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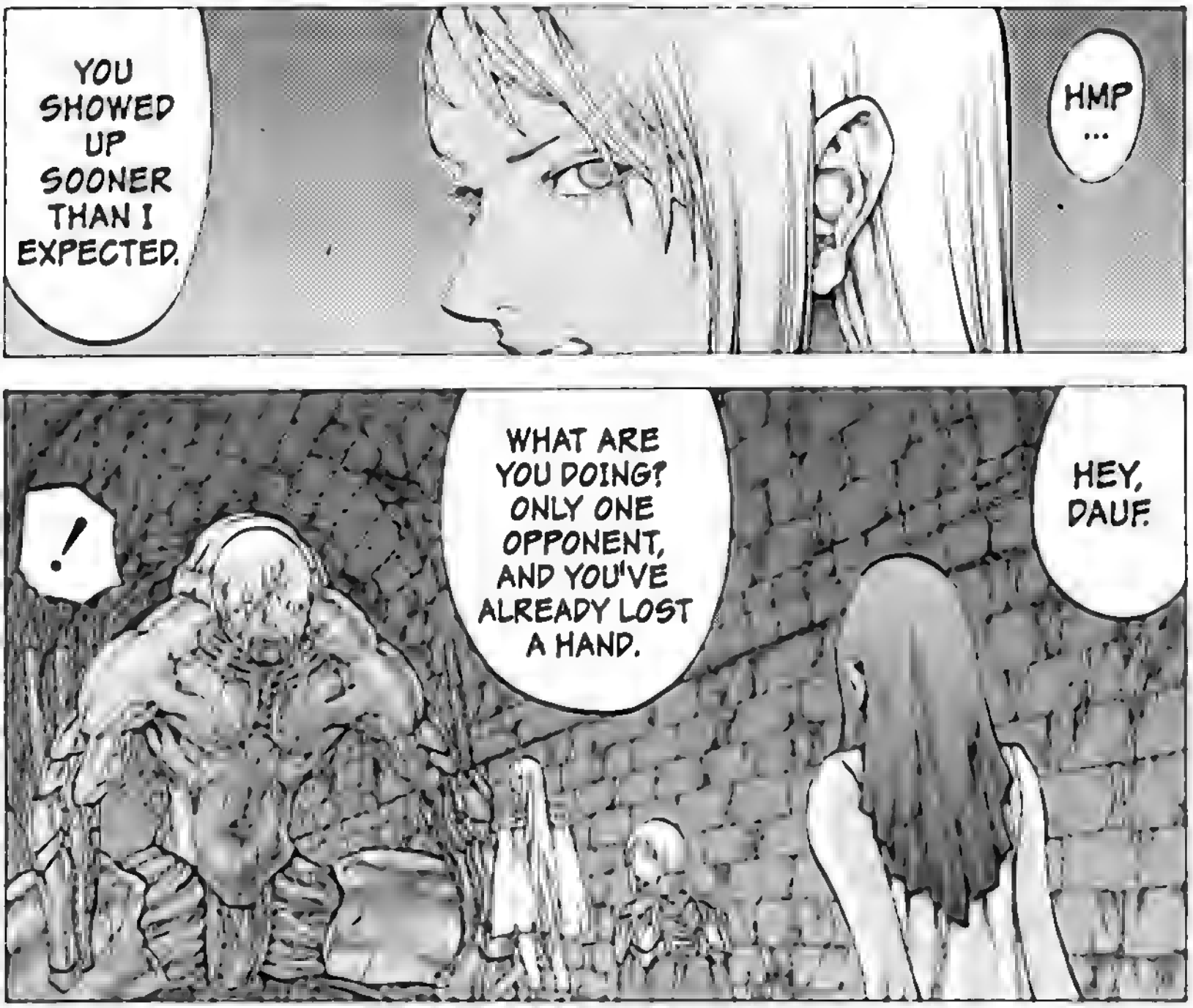
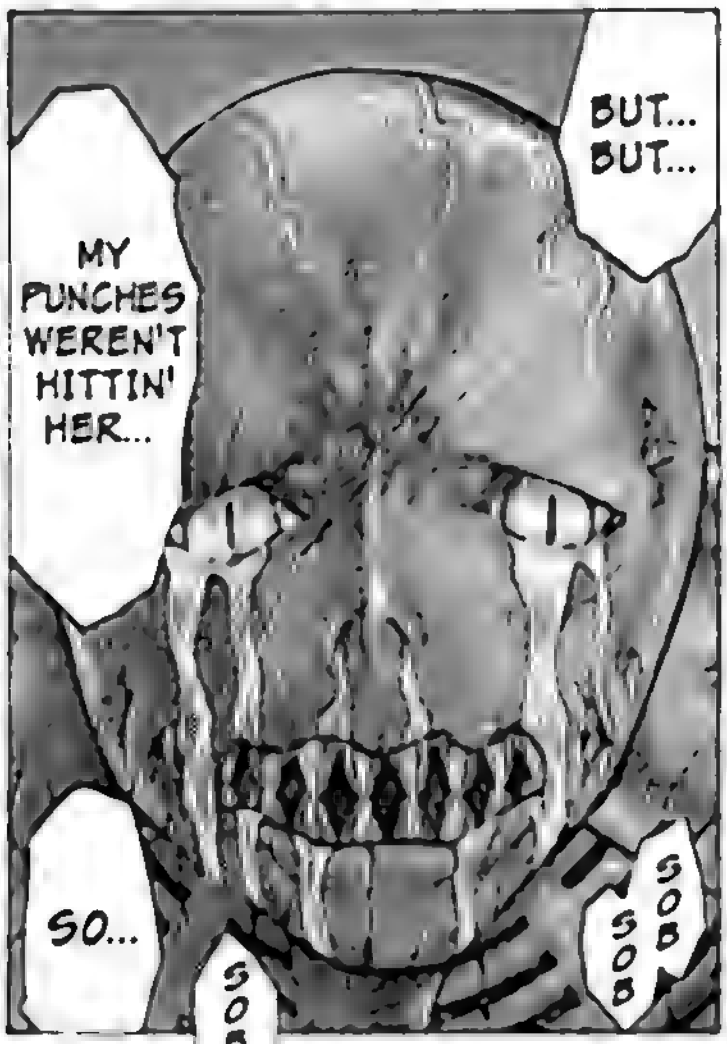
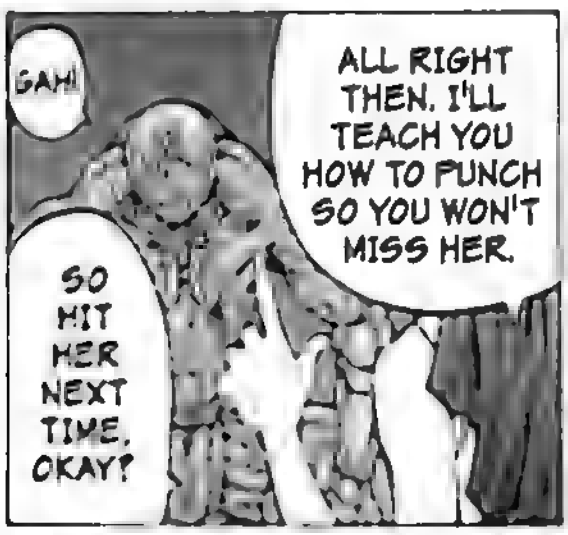
SCENE 45: THE WITCH'S MAW, PART 5







USE ALL YOUR STRENGTH.
AND HIT HER WITH ALL YOU'VE GOT.
SCENE 45: THE WITCH'S MAW, PART 5

READ THIS WAY

!

THAT'S WHAT I BEEN TRYIN' TO DO.

BUT IT JUST AIN'T WORKIN'.

BUT... I JUST TOLD YOU...

DAMN...

DAMN IT.

BIKI BIKI BIKI

NO...

NO... NOT THAT...

IF YOU MISS THIS TIME, I'M LEAVING YOU.

JUST TRY IT AGAIN, OKAY?

DAMN.
BIKI
BIKI
BIKI
BIKI
DAMN.
DAMN.

ASH

BIKI
BIKI
BIKI
YOU...
IT'S YOUR FAULT!

!
TINGLE
TINGLE

TINGLE
TINGLE
TINGLE

DO

GAAAT

THIS TIME I DIDN'T MISS.

HUH?

!

GAH!

FSSH

DOGAAT

FSSH

IMP

GRAAAH!!

DOGAAT

BAKO

READ THIS WAY

!!

DO GAAAAT

CHNG CHNG CHNG CHNG CLANG

GRR!

THERE. NOW YOU'VE GOT IT.

!

IF YOU'D DONE IT LIKE THAT FROM THE START, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE LOST YOUR HAND.

GALA-TEA! LOOK OUT!

ME? I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING.

I JUST MADE DAUF EXERT HIS REAL POWER, THAT'S ALL.

YOU ...

WHAT DID YOU DO?

YOUR FRIEND'S SPECIALTY IS TO READ THROUGH YOMA AURA AND DISCRIM-INATE DOWN TO THE SMALLEST PART.

DOING THAT, SHE CAN HARMONIZE WITH HER OPPONENT AND CONTROL THEIR MOTIONS.

WELL, I CAN'T GO SO FAR AS TO SAY "CON-TROL."

SHE CATCHES HER OPPONENT OFF GUARD, AIMS FOR WHERE THEIR AWARENESS IS WEAK, AND PUTTING HER OWN ENERGY IN HARMONY, MOVES THEM JUST A LITTLE BIT.

!

READ THIS WAY

WHILE THE OPPONENT GETS CARELESS AND RELAXES, SHE DISTRACTS THEM TO GET THEM CONFUSED.

SO AT FIRST IT'S NECES-SARY TO MISLEAD THEM.

EVEN MORE SO IF THE OPPO-NENT HAS MORE POWER THAN HER-SELF.

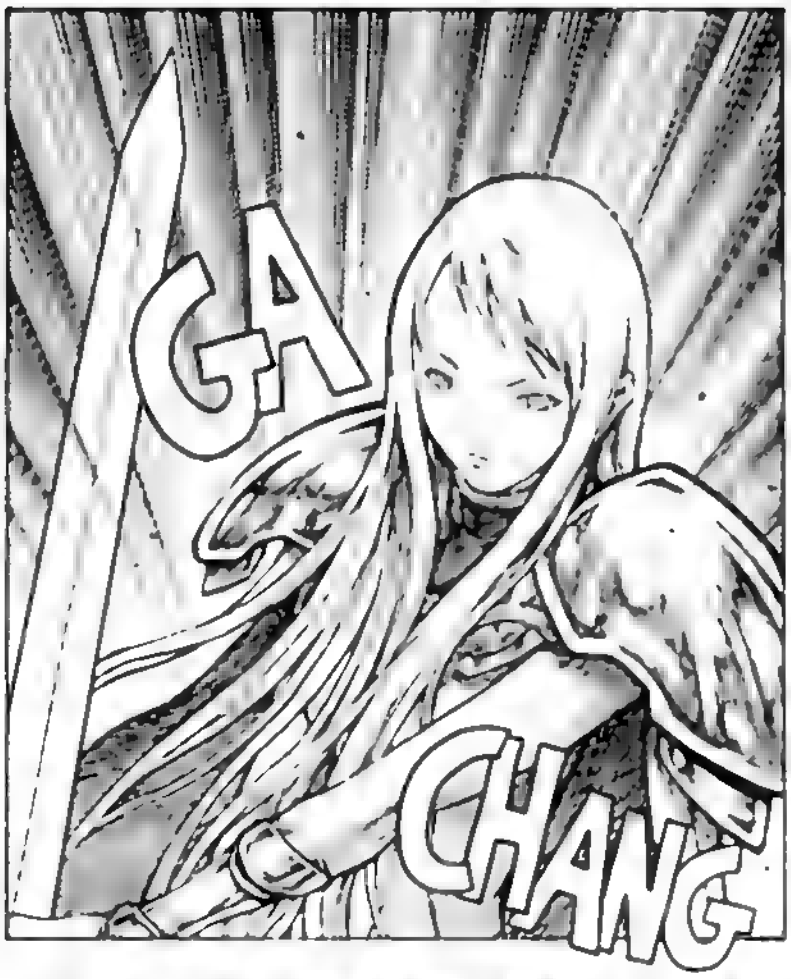
SO IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE FOR HER TO CONTROL THE OPPO-NENT'S MOVEMENTS THEMSELVES OR TO ACTUALLY STOP AN ATTACK.

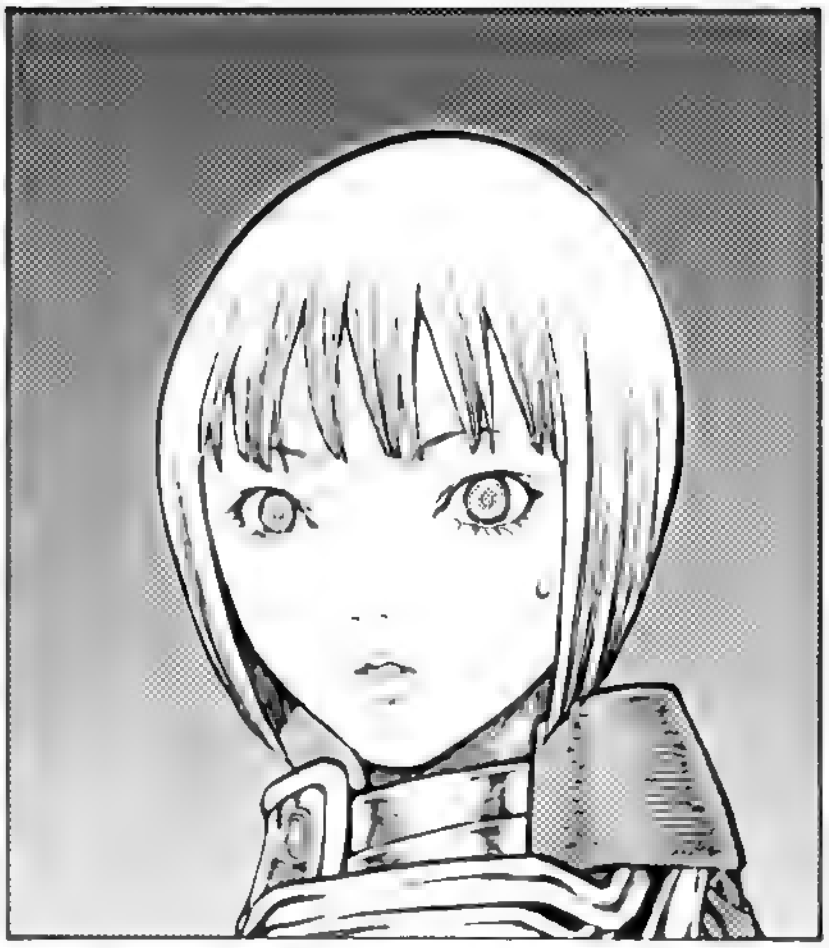
IT'S HARD TO PUT YOUR TRUE POWER INTO A STRIKE WHEN YOU DOUBT WHETHER OR NOT IT WILL HIT.

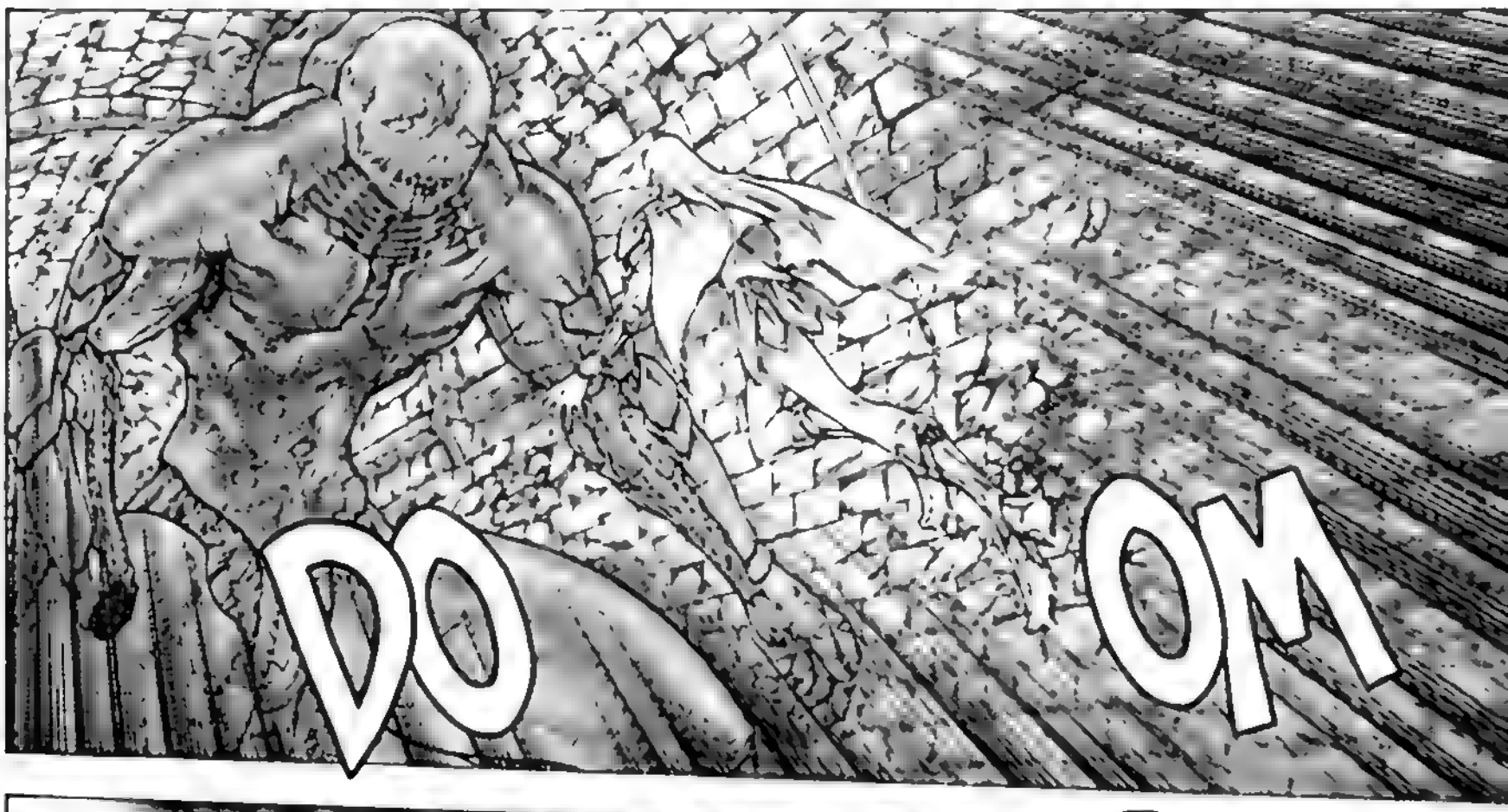
THAT'S HOW IT WORKS.

...EVEN THOUGH IT LOOKS THE SAME, THERE'S NOT A THING SHE CAN DO ABOUT IT.

BUT WITH A FOCUSED, CONCEN-TRATED STRIKE FROM AN OPPONENT STRONGER THAN HER...


GA
CHANG




DO
OM

FSH

DOBA

DO GA GA GA

OW. OW. OW.

!!?

BAKO

ARG!

FWSH

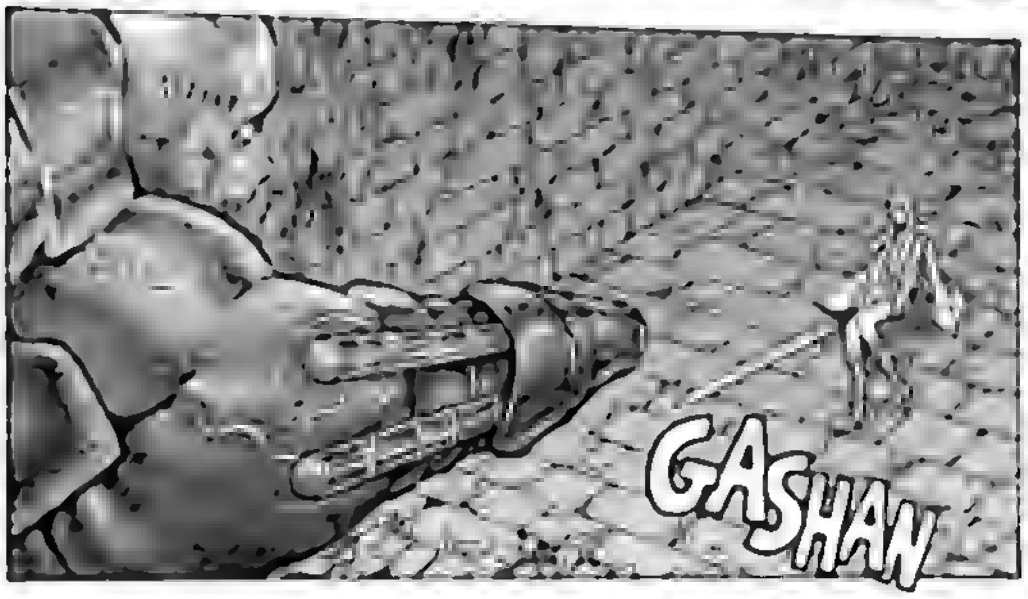
DOGA GA!!

SHHP

GRR ...

DOSHAA

GALATEA!!


GASHAN

OW OW ...
GAH!
YOU'RE GONNA PAY FOR THIS.

AH ...
SHH-P-

GET OUT OF THERE!
!!

DO GA AAAA

AAAAGH!

GYEH.

GOT 'ER!

WHERE SHOULD I HIT HER NEXT?

DA... DAMN.

THE ONLY THING I CAN DO IS HIT HIM IN THE JAW...

IT'S OVER, ISN'T IT?

DO

OM

!

WELL, WHAT'S THIS?

IT'S GOOD THAT YOU RELEASED ENOUGH POWER TO HEAL YOUR LEGS...

BUT NOW YOU'VE CROSSED YOUR LIMITS.

BIKI

BIKI

BIKI

DO

BAAA

I'LL CRUSH HER HEAD!

DO

GAA

NEXT ...

DOGAAAA

UGH ...

SHAK

!

GA!

GA!

WH ...

WHAT ARE...

!!!!!!!!!

HUH?

BIK BIK BIK

STOP! STOP!

NO!

PLEASE, STOP!

BIK BIK

BIK BIK BIK

GA!

GA!

GA! GA!

GA!

BIK BIK

BIK BIK

GASHAN

BIK

UGH.

BIK BIK

DAMN ...

CAN'T ... STOP ...

THIS TIME... CAN'T ...

BIK BIK

BIK BIK

BIK BIK

BIK BIK

HUH !?

FWUU

MY GOD ...

!

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE TRYING TO BRING YOURSELF BACK AFTER CROSSING YOUR LIMITS...

BUT THAT IT COULD ACTU-ALLY BE DONE ...

I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST MY IMAGINATION WHEN I FELT IT BACK IN THE MOUNTAINS.

READ THIS WAY

AS A TEST, I JUST TRIED PULLING BACK THIS WAY.

SHP

IF IT FAILED, I WAS GOING TO TAKE YOUR HEAD.

WAS THAT YOU?

GALA-TEA... JUST NOW...

WHAT KIND OF CREATURE ARE YOU?

THE ORGANI-ZATION TOLD ME TO INVESTI-GATE YOU.

WHAT A SHAME. AND I THOUGHT YOU'D FINALLY AWAKENED, TOO.

!

I'VE DEVEL-OPED A LIKING FOR BOTH OF YOU.

A MYSTERIOUS WARRIOR PULLED BACK FROM AWAKENING BY A HIGH-RANKING NUMBER...

...JOIN MY GROUP.

I'LL LET YOU TWO ...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT

HOW IS YOUR WOUND?

AS A DEFEN-SIVE STYLE WARRIOR, I HEAL FAST.

READ THIS WAY

LIKE YOU SAID, HER AURA IS MUCH MORE POWERFUL THAN THE MALE'S.

BUT SHE'S SKILLFULLY HIDDEN IT, AND IT COULDN'T BE DETECTED EASILY UNLESS YOU GOT NEAR HER.

WHAT ...

WHAT THE HELL IS SHE?

...I'VE ONLY FELT ONCE BEFORE IN MY LIFE.

A YOMA AURA THAT STRONG AND OMINOUS ...

IF I MAKE IT OUT OF HERE ALIVE, I'LL BRAG ABOUT IT TO OUR COMRADES.

IF YOU FELT THAT ONCE AND LIVED, YOU'RE LUCKY.

READ THIS WAY

THERE HAVE BEEN THREE TERRIBLE INSTANCES OF A NUMBER ONE BECOMING AWAKENED.

IN THE HISTORY OF THE WARRIORS KNOWN AS "CLAY-MORES" ...

I HEARD THAT ONCE, THERE WAS ONE TIME WHEN THE ORGANI-ZATION ITSELF ALMOST FELL.

ONE DURING THE MALE PERIOD AND TWO DURING THE FEMALE PERIOD.

ASIDE FROM THE WASTELANDS OF THE EAST, THESE THREE DISPERSED TO THE VARIOUS REGIONS.

ONE IN THE SOUTH.

ONE IN THE WEST.

ONE IN THE NORTH.

THEY'RE THE STRONG-EST KNOWN AWAKENED ONES ON THE CONTI-NENT.

THEY CAME TO BE KNOWN AS THE "POWER-FUL THREE."

EVER SINCE, THE THREE HAVE NOT APPEARED OPENLY, AND HAVE COME TO BE CALLED THE CREATURES OF THE ABYSS.

KNOWING OF EACH OTHERS' POWER, THEY TRY TO AVOID UNNECES-SARY CONTACT.

BUT RECENTLY, WE'VE HEARD THAT ALL THREE OF THEM HAVE BEGUN UNUSUAL ACTIVI-TIES.

IF THEY HAD STAYED SLUMBERING QUIETLY IN THE DEPTHS, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN GOOD.

WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?

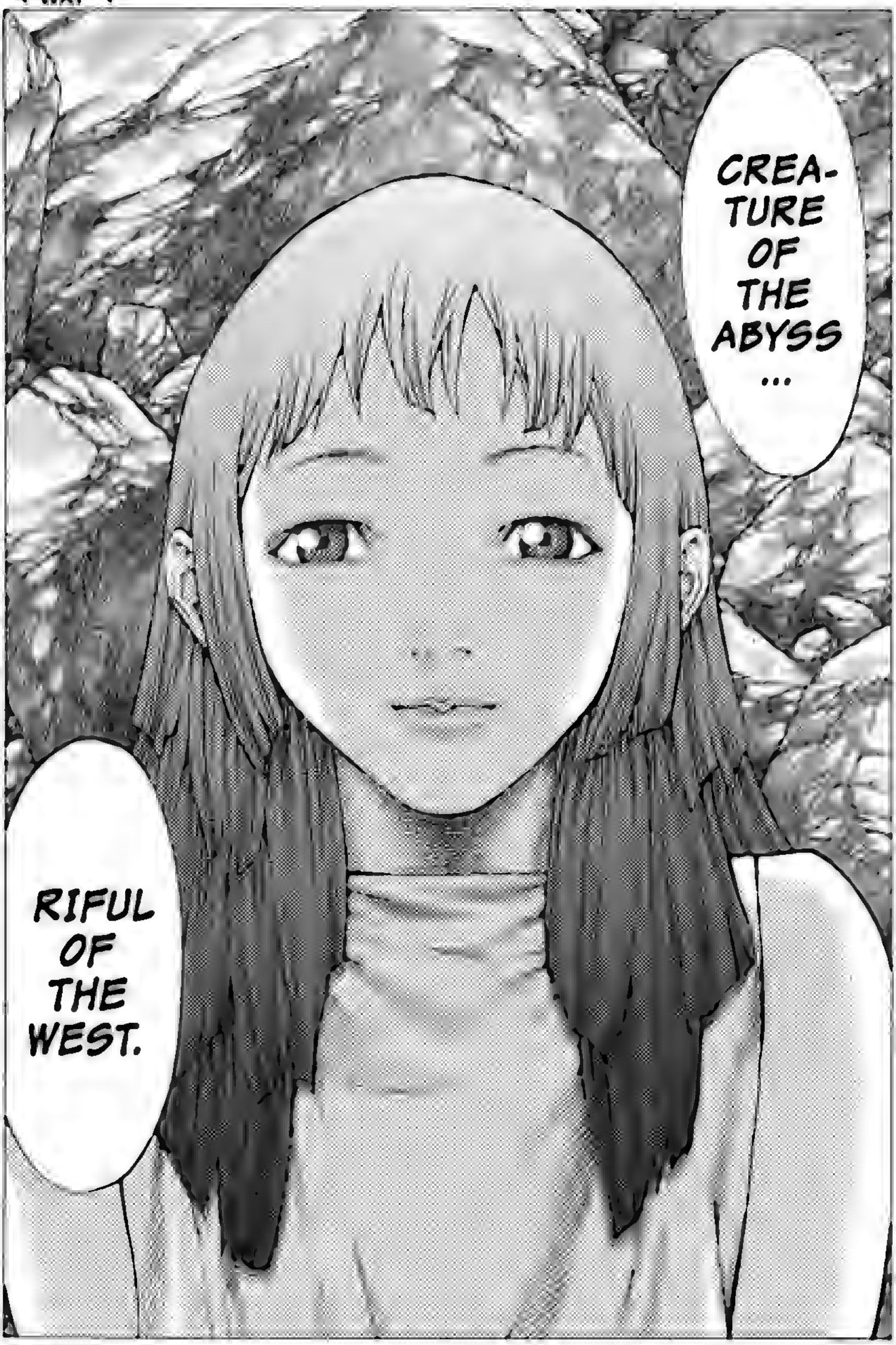
AND NOW I SHOULD LIKE YOUR AN-SWER.

SMRK

IT'S AS THOUGH THEY ARE EACH BUILD-ING ARMIES FOR WAR.

EACH ONE HAS STARTED GATHERING AWAKENED ONES TOGETHER.

THE FIRST NUMBER ONE FEMALE WARRIOR IN THE HISTORY OF THE ORGANI-ZATION.
THE YOUNGEST WARRIOR IN HISTORY TO EVER REACH THAT PEAK, AND THE YOUNGEST WARRIOR TO EVER RELEASE SUCH POWER.


CREA-
TURE
OF
THE
ABYSS
...
RIFUL
OF
THE
WEST.

CREA-TURE OF THE ABYSS?

RIFUL OF THE WEST?

IT'S JUST THAT WE DIDN'T END UP IN THE SAME PLACE.

IT'S NOT THAT WE'VE BEEN AVOIDING CONTACT WITH EACH OTHER.

EAT AND SLEEP, EAT AND SLEEP, DAY AFTER DAY.

TO BE HONEST, IT WAS RATHER BORING.

QUITE A THING, FOR SOME-ONE SO YOUNG.

YOU'RE WELL IN-FORMED.

READ THIS WAY

THAT ONE IS PARTICULARLY STRONG, AND HAS POWERS CLOSE TO OUR OWN.

BUT SUDDENLY, AN AWAKENED ONE APPEARED IN THE NORTH, TEARING AROUND AS SHE PLEASED.

...BUT HE GREW A LIKING TO THE GIRL, AND MADE HER HIS WOMAN.

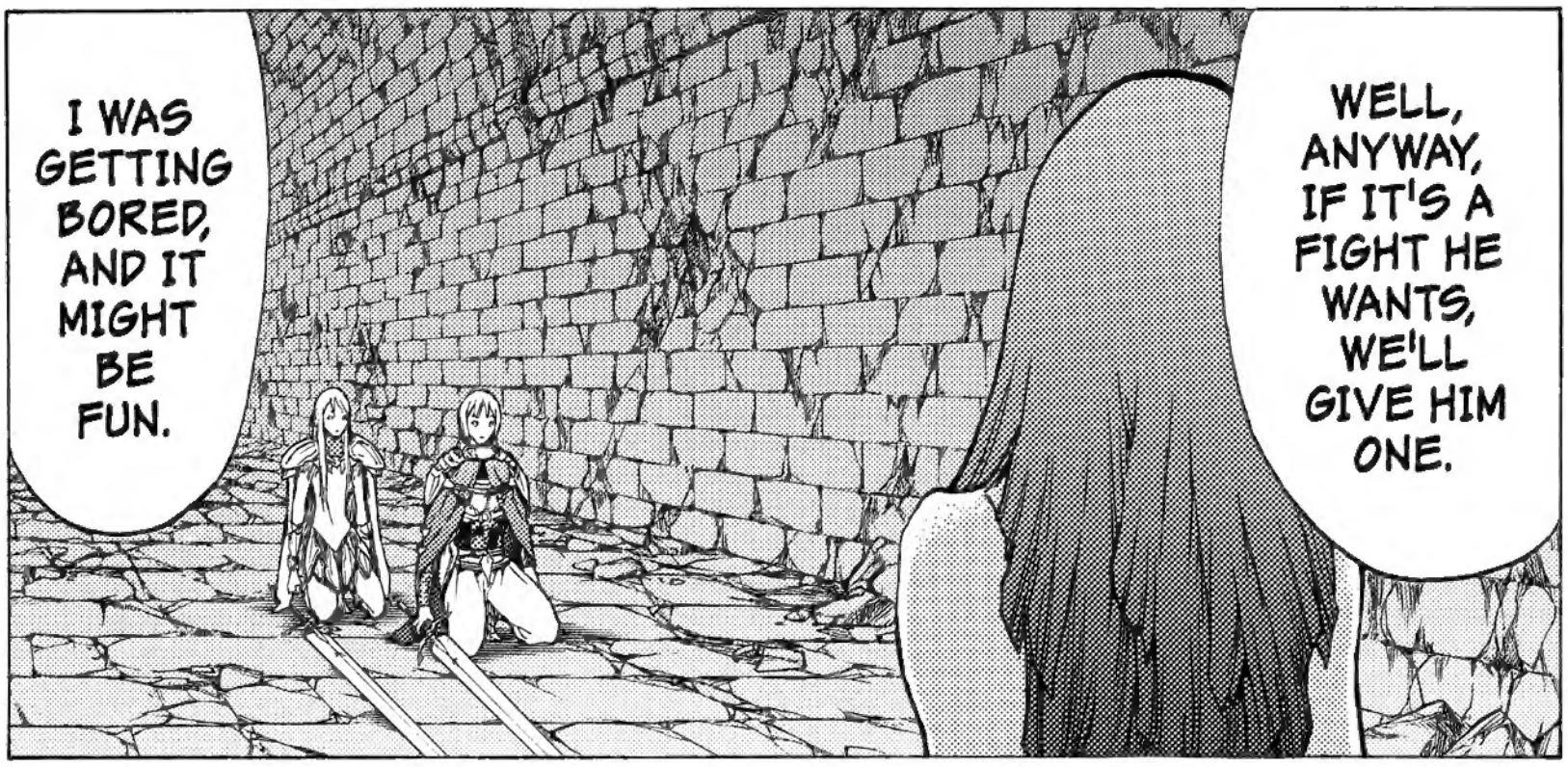
WHAT SHE WAS DOING WAS UNFORGIVABLE. THE MAN OF THE NORTH BEAT THAT WILD THING DOWN WITH ALL HIS MIGHT...

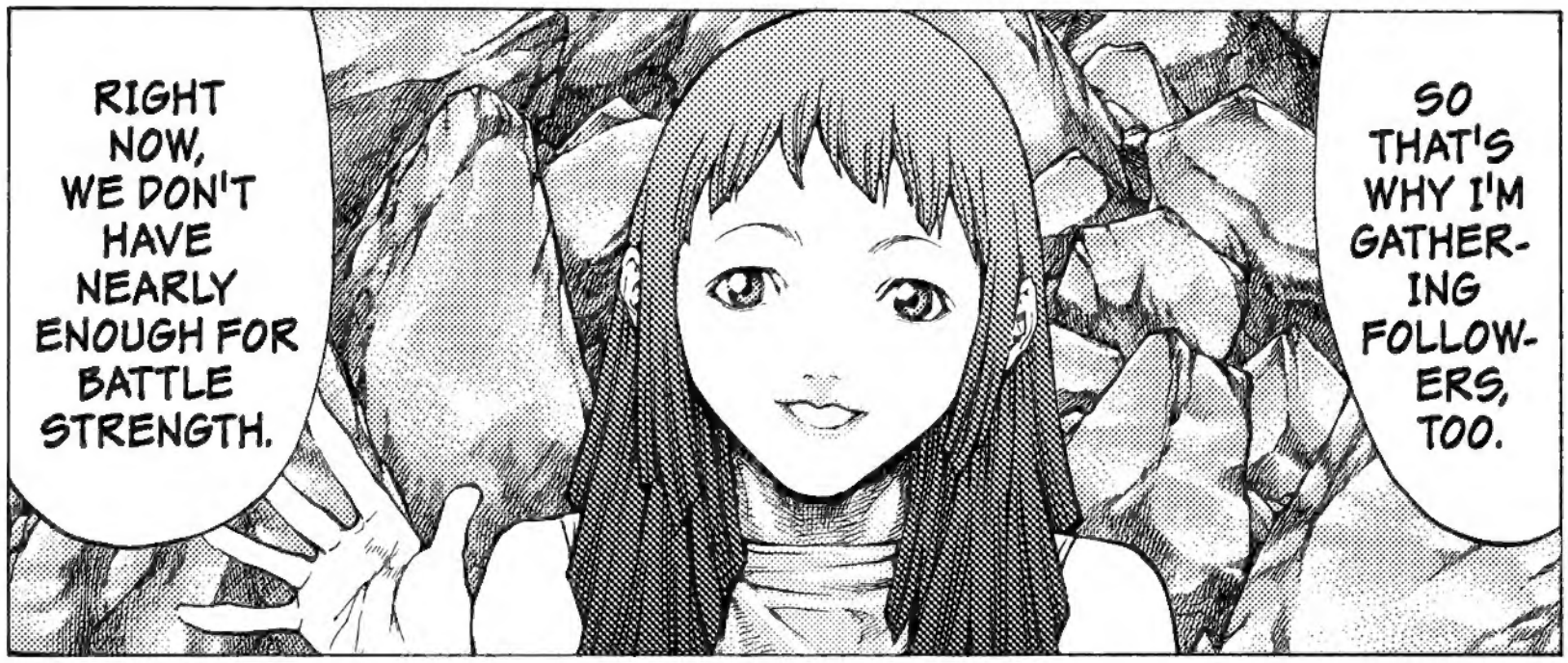
BEING RUDE AND PICKING A FIGHT WITH US...

WOULDN'T THAT MAKE YOU MAD? THE PREVIOUSLY QUIET MAN OF THE NORTH STARTS GATHERING FOLLOWERS AND GETTING ALL BIG-HEADED...

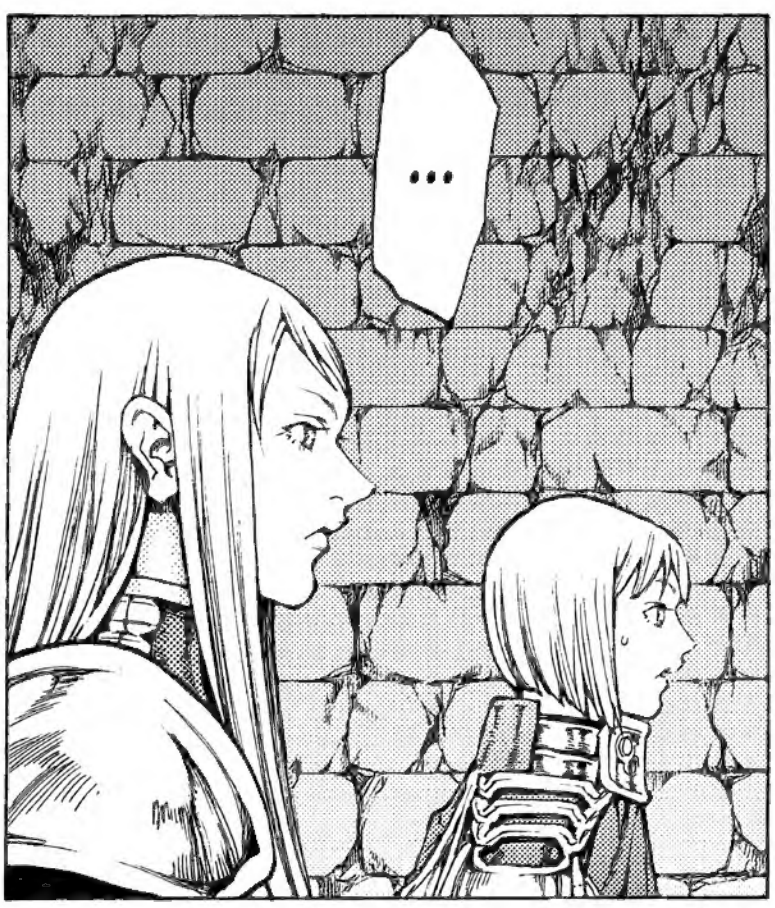
IT FELT LIKE HE WAS DELIBERATELY TRYING TO PROVOKE US.

JUST WHEN THAT HAPPENED, THE MAN OF THE NORTH BEGAN TO RAPIDLY EXPAND HIS TERRITORY.


I WAS GETTING BORED, AND IT MIGHT BE FUN.
WELL, ANYWAY, IF IT'S A FIGHT HE WANTS, WE'LL GIVE HIM ONE.


RIGHT NOW, WE DON'T HAVE NEARLY ENOUGH FOR BATTLE STRENGTH.
SO THAT'S WHY I'M GATHER-ING FOLLOW-ERS, TOO.

STILL, THE THING THAT MAKES ME THE MOST ANGRY IS THAT GIRL WHO WAS RUNNING AMOK.
RIGHT NOW IT APPEARS THAT SHE'S FORGOTTEN THE DAMAGE THE MAN OF THE NORTH DID TO HER WHEN THEY FOUGHT, BUT...


...

READ THIS WAY

THEY SAY THAT IN THE TOWNS SHE ATTACKED, SHE COMPLETELY DESTROYED EVERY-THING.

YET SHE NEVER LAID A HAND ON THE YOUNG GIRLS.

WH ...

WHAT?

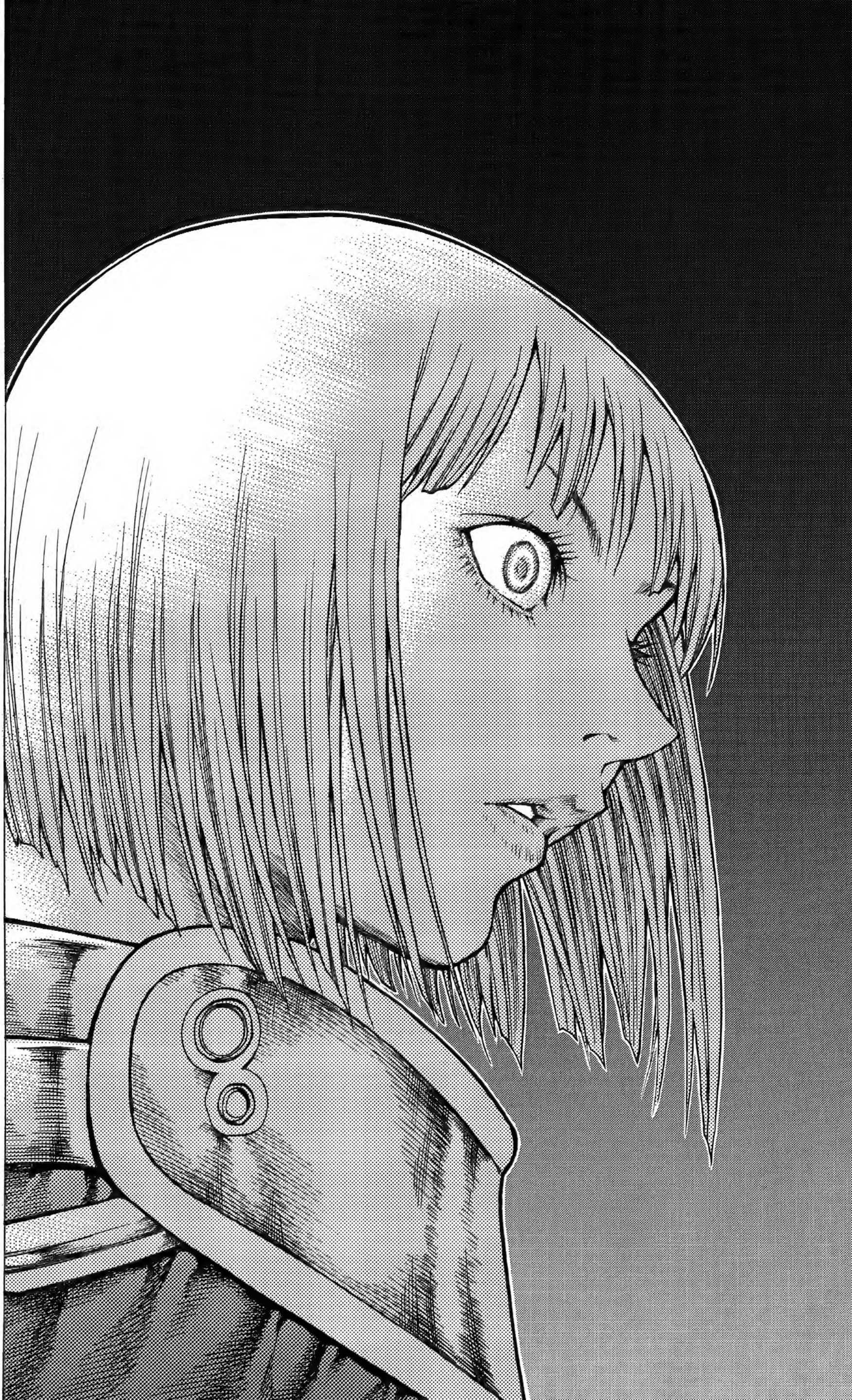
!

IT'S ALMOST LIKE ...

SHE DOESN'T EVEN NOTICE THE YOUNG GIRLS AT ALL.

SHE'S A STRANGE ONE. EVEN THOUGH SHE TEARS OUT THE GUTS OF EVERY-ONE ELSE IN THE VILLAGE ...

SHE DOESN'T MAKE A SINGLE WOUND ON THE YOUNG GIRLS.


8

READ THIS WAY

...IS SHE ...

!

WHERE...

WHERE IS...

...THAT BEAST?

BKI

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

YOUR VOICE IS SO SMALL, I CAN'T HEAR YOU.

WH AM

I'M GOING TO KILL HIS WOMAN!

WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE MAN OF THE NORTH?

FWSSSH

END OF VOL. 8: THE WITCH'S MAW